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February 1992

Newsletter 20

"The glory of creation is in its infinite diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty."

Honorary Members: Gene Roddenberry, Richard Arnold, James Doohan, Walter Koenig, John de Lancie & Marnie Mosiman, Mark Lenard, Michael Okuda, Susan Sackett, Marina Sirtis, Patrick Stewart, Rick Sternbach, George Takei, Guy Vardaman, Rupert Evans, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt.

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Hi, everyone, and welcome to another newsletter. We hope you all had a good time over the festive season and we would like to thank all of you who sent us cards.

Unfortunately, due this being the quiet time of the year, the newsletter isn't the usual 88 pages this time - it's 96 pages instead!!

We're glad you all seem to have liked the last newsletter although it was a sad one for us to do. Gene meant so much to all of us. We were sorry the picture of Gene didn't come out better, but it shows why we don't print photos very often - we just can't tell how they will come out. Things might improve when Frank, our hard-worked printer, gets his new machine. Contrary to what we said last time the machine hasn't arrived yet so we've got him to print the newsletter by the usual method but using two sets of litho plates.

As a lot of you have heard, Richard Arnold lost his job at Paramount (further info later in the newsletter) so there is very little new info coming out of Paramount. Even TV Zone isn't carrying information on new 5th season episodes. We wouldn't have much new information this time if it wasn't for Eddie Yau who has access to the computer bulletin boards and is passing on info to us. Our commiserations to Richard and Guy - we hope you get your jobs back soon. We miss you!

We also wish Susan Sackett well with her writing and in her new career in the travel business. Susan has a new address where you can contact her - P.O. Box 1481, Studio City, CA 91614-0481. She would love to hear from you but apologises in advance that she won't be able to answer every letter right away.

We are still open to suggestions for a suitable tribute to Gene. It is beginning to look as if the most suitable would be a collection for a children's charity donated in his name. If we did this Majel would be send the acknowledgement. If you would like to nominate a charity or make any other suggestions please contact us.

Our apologies to Ann T. Robertson for missing her name off the quiz in the last newsletter - we'll do our best not to make that mistake again.

We have been asked recently how many members we have in IDIC - well, it's 750 - 800. It varies from day to day, dropping after a newsletter goes out and then increasing with both new members and renewals until the next one is posted. Since we send the newsletter for printing 10 days before it goes out it is quite difficult trying to work out how many extra newsletters we need to cover late renewals and new members. So far we've mostly got it right with the current newsletter running out a couple of weeks before the next one is due, but as from this newsletter we've stopped sending out second renewal notices and we're having to reassess (ie guess) how many newsletters we will need. Because of the increased length this time we have decided to cut the print run by 50 to 800. This does mean that forgetful members renewing after the date when the following newsletter is due out do take the chance that we might run out and they'll miss a newsletter.

We have another raffle in aid of the IDIC Guide Dog Fund in this newsletter. This time we are offering one of the Holograms of the original series Enterprise from A.H. Prismatic, a set of 6 TNG coasters which have photos of the crew, plus a runners-up prize of a year's membership of IDIC. The hologram will be drawn first but you may indicate a preference. Please put your name and address or membership number on each individual ticket. Tickets are £1 (or \$2) for the strip of 5 - please note that if you want £2's worth you can send both strips back; please send your tickets (and money, of course!) to Sheila or Janet by March 1st. Winners will be announced in the next newsletter. Note: Please do not send cheques or POs for less than £1 - we will accept stamps (any combination of values from 1p to £1).

Our thanks to Keren Breen, Chris Brown, Marie Chettle, Benjamin Cockrell, Nicole Comete, Linda Court, Toni Cumming, Joyce Devlin, Mary Frost, Kathleen Glancy, Laurie Haynes, Z.T. Hunt, Muriel Jarrett, Carol Keen, Tina Pole, Richard Preston, Moira Russell, Christine Snow, Karen Sparks, Jon Vernon, Linda Watt, Russell

Witheyman, Eddie Yau, Waltraud Zucha-Glass and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

Thank you to Bev Ambrose, Jean Barron, Lynne Baxter, Joanna Brennan, Chris Brown, Rosemary Chivers, Melanie Claessens, Derek Clark, Martina Copple, Linda Court, Pamela Dale, Karen Davies, Sue Embury, Mimi English, Gerti Fleck, Mark French, Assy Friedel, Gloria Fry, Manuela Gaderister, Kathleen Glancy, George Heggerty, Muriel Jarrett, Christine Jones, Kirstie Jordan, Silvia Lange, Gary Leeke, Kari M John, Wynne Jones, Ruth Kurz, Carol Looby, Maggy and the children at her daughter's school, Karen MacGarvie, Hilde McCabe, Partick Library and borrowers, Marina Paul, Claudia Peill, Marion Pritchard, Gilliam Rainey, Sue Sneath, Martin Stahl, John Talbot, Lesley Thompson, Jenny Turner, Linda Ware, Edward Woo and everyone else who has donated money, collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Sheila recently delivered another batch of stamps to the Guide Dogs. The stamps weighed in at 20.59 kilos, for which the Guide Dogs received £3.50 a kilo, making a grand total of £72.06.

We got a report on Aero's progress, courtesy of Joyce - as his breeder, she gets info on how he's progressing. He's doing well; his only fault is that he's too interested in speaking to other dogs, but training should solve that.

The closing date for the next newsletter is March 5th (March 1st for anything sent to Sheila). Don't forget - send hand written postbag submissions, articles and reviews to Sheila, everything else to Janet. Weather permitting we hope to post it out around March 25th - if the roads are bad it could be up to two weeks later.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 12/1/92

IDIC RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For Period 1/10/90 - 30/11/91

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>	
Opening Balance	£1457.12		
Memberships	£5141.72	Postage	£2719.74
Sales	£1987.48	Printing/Stationary	£4672.54
Misc	£ 90.49	Sales	£ 246.78
		Misc	£ 186.99
Total Receipts	£7209.69	Total Payments	£7826.05
		Money in hand	£ 840.76
	£8666.81		£8666.81

The above accounts cover newsletters 13 - 19.

IDIC GUIDE DOG FUND - Period 1/12/90 - 30/11/91

Money C/F	£ 58.42	Collecting Box	£ 176.11
Donations/Raffles etc.	£831.83	Paid to Guide Dogs Association	
Interest as of 30/11/91	£ 24.63	on 3/10/90	£ 923.89
Total	£914.88	Total	£1000.00
		Money in hand	£ 90.99

LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton

STAR TREK VI

Press release from DDA.

Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country has been launched across the United States (on 6/12/91) to unqualified critical acclaim and outstanding box-office results. The film, which has enjoyed the biggest ever opening of a "Star Trek" film across the U.S. and been hailed by U.S. critics as the best of the series, opens simultaneously at London's Empire, Leicester Square and nationwide on February 14th, 1992.

Critics working in three major domestic markets in the U.S. were starry-eyed over STVI, with prestigious New York Times critic, Janet Maslin, giving the film a rave review, Hal Hinson of the Washington Post describing it as "close to ideal" and all the L.A. critics passing on nothing but praise for what is turning out to be a modern film classic. The film grossed a stunning \$18,162,837 on 1804 screens across the U.S. on the opening weekend to reach the top spot at the box office.

Both Entertainment Tonight, which is shown on Sky Movies Plus, and CinemAttractions have been showing clips and interviews connected with STVI.

THE STAR TREK OFFICE and GENE'S STAFF

There have been a number of stories going around about Susan Sackett and Richard Arnold being sacked. Here is the information we have.

Susan Sackett was Gene's Executive Assistant and was employed by his company Norway Productions. Unfortunately Susan lost her job after Gene died. Susan says that she knows there can never be another person like Gene, and she would not be happy being someone else's personal assistant. Susan loves travelling and has travelled to over 35 countries and virtually all of the United States, so, as well as continuing with her part-time writing career, she has decided to go into the travel business. Susan is working with Embassy Travel as a travel agent. We wish her every success in her new career.

Richard Arnold & Guy Vardeman - The following is an edited version of a message which Eddie Yau found on the computer bulletin boards

This information comes from the Science Fiction
Conference on BIX (R), the BYTE Information Exchange.

Six user "flavia" is Bjo Trimble, former Star Trek Consultant
and Author of the "Star Trek Concordance"

=====

sf/star.trek.2 £2961, from flavia, 2264 chars, Sun Dec 1 23:25:16 1991

TITLE: STAR TREK FIRINGS

Rumor is rampant all over the BBS's, so here is the straight story, right from the people involved:

Richard Arnold and his assistant, Guy Vardeman, were given no warning of their job termination. They left the Star Trek office to deliver mail on the set and returned to find Richard's office lock had been changed and studio guards mounted to prevent entry. This unsubtle action was NOT on the part of new ST:TNG producer, Rick Berman. It was instigated by Arthur Cohen, head of WorldWide Marketing, Paramount.
Seems that GR and Cohen had never agreed on merchandising. "Gee, we were SURE the

Klingon bubble-bath would sell... why should we consult the Star Trek office to see if fans would go for it?" Seems to me (personal Bjo opinion here) that Mr. Cohen could hardly wait for the body to get cold before he took his revenge. Richard was a natural target. Guy just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Oddly enough, though Guy was fired as Star Trek assistant, it is not supposed to do anything to his acting career. At the moment he is still an extra on the ST:TNG set.

There will be NO replacement for Richard. According to Cohen, "there is no more need for the Star Trek office" that dealt with fans, with news to the fans, and all that sort of nonsense.

Of course, there IS a need. So someone will eventually have to take over the job. Shall that be our ever-lovin' merchandising department?

It is MY PERSONAL OPINION that fans should write to Mr. Brandon Tartikoff, Chairman of Paramount Communications, Paramount Pictures, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Hollywood, CA 90038, and tell him what's going on.

Don't bother to write Cohen; you know what will happen to any adverse mail.

Please pass this information around. I'm not on any other BBS, so I can't tell others the true facts. Help kill off the rumors!

Bjo

Janet - Well we're not guaranteeing the full truth of the above but it certainly seems to agree with what we've heard from elsewhere. We'll keep you informed of any further developments.

One immediate result of the closing of the Star Trek office is a lack of information about TNG coming out of Paramount. As to the future, we don't know what effect Richard's losing his job will have on British ST Conventions as Richard has been a regular guest at most of them and for me personally his informative talks on both original Trek and TNG have been a very important part of conventions. Without Richard we can't know whether guests will be able to provide new information and show slides, or bring items for the charity auction. We are just hoping that some way Richard will get his job back and we encourage you to write to Mr. Brandon Tartikoff as Bjo suggests. But if you do write be polite and emphasise how much Richard has done for both the fans and the studio.

STAR TREK'S 25th ANNIVERSARY

At the beginning of December (6th?) the original ST cast had their handprints and signatures taken in cement outside the Mann's Chinese Theatre. Just over a week later DeForest Kelley received his Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

CIC - THIRD SEASON ST:TNG VIDEOS

We've been hearing a number of complaints about the recent third season TNG CIC videos which have been released - they are speeded up. How much this bothers you seems to depend on the individual - Sheila didn't really notice it and while Janet found it distracting at first she got used to it. On the other hand it does seem to spoil the enjoyment of quite a few people. We feel it is worth mentioning that original Trek as we are used to it as shown on BBC is in fact faster than as seen in the States. We first noticed that when we saw Empath for the first time on 16mm film.

Anyway, here is an edited version of the explanation of the speeded up videos that was printed in TV Zone 25.

"PAL runs at 25 video frames per second and NTSC runs at 30 video frames per second. Conversion of video from NTSC to PAL results in a degrading of picture quality. Mindful of complaints about the poor picture quality of UK TNG videos, CIC adopted a new system of converting Trek NTSC master tapes to PAL master tapes. The new system is DEFT (Digital Electronic Film Transfer). DEFT converts film which runs at 24 frames per second to NTSC video by duplicating some frames in a sequence which is not perceptible to the human eye. DEFT re-converts the 30 frames of NTSC information back into 24 frames per second of information. This 24 frames per second 'version' is then run at the PAL 25 frames per second for UK video tape duplication. This results in a 4% increase in speed - so that's the problem!

At first this may sound unacceptable. However bear in mind that all films transferred to British video/tv 'suffer' the same increase in speed (because of the 24/25 frame discrepancy). TV companies sometimes pitch the sound lower to hide this but CIC says doing that would degrade the audio signal to an extent which would cancel out the Dolby Stereo Surround-Sound.

CIC technical experts pointed out that the initial conversion from film to NTSC also results in a minor speed change. So, on NTSC, a voice is pitched slightly lower than the actor's actual voice, but pitched slightly higher on the PAL DEFT conversion. The real pitch lies somewhere between the two."

Janet - well we won't confuse you any more. If you aren't happy with the change you could try writing to Amanda Hearsh (Production Assistant) and Karl Oliver (Head of Marketing), at CIC Video, Fourth Floor, Glenthorne House, 5/17 Hammersmith Grove, Hammersmith, W6 0ND.

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

Fifth Season episodes

ENSIGN RO - Teleplay by Michael Piller, Story by Rick Berman & Michael Piller, Directed by Les Landau. Synopsis by Sheila Clark.
Ensign Ro has spent several years in prison after being court-martialled. She has been released specifically for this particular mission, which involves negotiation with certain members of her race. Unfortunately, Ro is the sort of person no sensible Captain would want within several light years of his ship.

SILICON AVATAR - Teleplay by Jeri Taylor, Story by Lawrence V. Conley, Directed by Cliff Bole. Synopsis by Sheila Clark.
The return of the crystalline entity first encountered in Datalore. The Enterprise is visiting a newly established colony when the planet is attacked by the entity and everything organic on the surface is destroyed. The Enterprise picks up a scientist who has made a life study of these attacks and goes in search of the entity.

DISASTER by Ron Jarvis and Philp A. Scorza. Directed by Gabrielle Beaumont. Synopsis by Terry Griffiths.
When the Enterprise suffers serious damage as a result of an encounter with a quantum filament, bulkheads are breached and the main bridge is isolated with Counselor Troi in command. Picard is stranded in a turbolift with three young children. Bev and Geordi are trapped in a cargo bay with some highly volatile chemicals. Worf runs an emergency sick bay in Ten-Forward, assisted by Keiko, who is heavily pregnant. Riker and Data head for Engineering to try to restore power before the anti-matter containment field fails.

THE GAME Teleplay by Brannon Braga, Story by Susan Sackett & Fred Bronson and Brannon Braga, Directed by Cory Allen. Synopsis by Terry Griffiths.
Riker returns from a recreational visit to Raisa with a new game in the form of a headset which stimulates the brain. One by one, the crew are introduced to the game. Wesley, paying a visit while on leave, suspects the game may be addictive. He and Geordi's assistant, Lefler, investigate. When Data is found unconscious, events take a sinister turn.

UNIFICATION 1 & 2 Synopsis by Mike Mullen.

The return of Spock. A story about trying to reunite the Vulcan & Romulan peoples. Sinister plans are also afoot though.

MATTER OF TIME - Synopsis by Mike Mullen.

A historian from the Future visits the Enterprise, and Picard confronts him to help avoid a disaster on the planet below. He is not quite what he seems though.

We would like to thank Eddie Yau for the following 5th season information which he got off the computer network.

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
Season Five Broadcast Schedule - November 1991
 (1st Screenings only)

Dates indicate the days of satellite uplink, 'PC' denotes Paramount Code.
 Stardates will be added when known.

Ep	Date	PC	Stardate	Title
101	21/09/91	201	45020.4	Redemption II
102	28/09/91	202	45047.2	Darmok
103	05/10/91	203	45076.3	Ensign Ro
104	12/10/91	204	45122.3	Silicon Avatar
105	19/10/91	205	45156.1	Disaster
106	26/10/91	206	45208.2	The Game
107	02/11/91	208	45233.1	The Unification, Part One
108	09/11/91	207	45245.8	The Unification, Part Two
109	16/11/91	209	45349.1	A Matter of Time
110	04/01/92	210		New Ground
111	25/01/92	211		Hero Worship
112	01/02/92	212		Violations
113	08/02/92	213		The Masterpiece Society
114	15/02/92	214		Conundrum
115	22/02/92	215		Power Play
116	29/02/92	216		Ethics
117	14/03/92	217		The Outcast

Misc info compiled by Eddie - remember, things can change.

109. "A Matter of Time": In order to save an endangered planet, Picard seeks advice from the future, and risks violating the Prime Directive. Matt Frewer, from "Max Headroom" and "Doctor Doctor", appears, and is described as a cross between John Delancie and Dr. Soong.

110. "New Ground": (previously named "Barriers") Worf's son (Alexander) is back since Worf's Human parents can't handle the youngster. He will not be played by the same actor who played Alexander in "The Reunion". We are supposed to see some little life forms that we will fall in love with (a new breed of Tribbles?.....nah!).

One scene from this has Alexander in the holodeck trying out one of Worf's "calisthenics" programs, using the same weapon that Worf killed Duras with to fight the holo-monsters...

Worf has ambiguous feelings about playing dad. He turns to Troi for counseling.

111. "Hero Worship": A spacecraft is found with only one person aboard - a boy who is dealing with a series of tragic circumstances and must pull himself together again emotionally. He ends up using Data as a role model and emulates him.

112. "Violations": which deals with two unusual telepaths who come on board the Enterprise. This script may be incorporating some elements of the year-old story

"Past Perfect", where we find out more of Beverly's past, relating to Picard and possibly Jack Crusher.

113. "The Masterpiece Society": Genetic engineering.

114. "Conundrum": Someone has amnesia. I forget who it was, though.

These are the storylines to the rest of the season.

"Breach of Mind": An alien being rapes people's minds. Could be this season's version of "The Child".

"I, Borg": The Borg are back! And they brought more ships with them this time! Apparently a theme along the lines of Asimov's "I, Robot". Written by Rene Echeverria (who did "The Offspring" and "Transfigurations"). She is known for writing "people stories", so this will be a people story about the Borg. Possibly this season's cliff-hanger!

"Invisible Friend": A little girl's imaginary friend isn't imaginary anymore.

"Past Perfect": Finally. This is the episode they've been telling us about for a couple of years. It involves Beverly having flashbacks of Jack Crusher.

"Rascals": Crewmen are reduced to children. Unsure if this means physically, mentally, or both.

"Terror in Ten Forward": Officers are held hostage and/or under attack in Ten Forward. Could be pretty good.

"The Rivals": Geordi Story.

"[Title not yet known]": Q is back (sans Vash).

"[Title not yet known]": Barclay is back.

"[Title not yet known]": Lwaxana is back.

STAR TREK on BBC

Star Trek: The Next Generation screening dates and ratings - the figures are taken from Broadcast:

48	2/10/91	Shades of Gray (48)	BBC 2	Figures 4.49 million viewers.
49	9/10/91	Evolution (49)	BBC 2	Figures 4.97 million viewers.
50	16/10/91	The Ensigns of Command (50)	BBC 2	Figures 4.97 million viewers.
	23/10/91	Football (Survivors scheduled)		
51	30/10/91	Who Watches The Watchers? (52)	BBC 2	Figures 5.07 million viewers.
52	6/11/91	The Bonding (53)	BBC 2	Figures 5.48 million viewers.
53	13/11/91	Booby Trap (54) 5.30 pm	BBC 2	Figures 3.60 million viewers.
54	20/11/91	The Survivors (51)	BBC 2	Figures 5.44 million viewers.
55	26/11/91	The Enemy (55)	BBC 2	Figures 5.31 million viewers.
56	4/12/91	The Price (56)	BBC 2	Figures 5.15 million viewers.
57	11/12/91	The Vengeance Factor (57)		
58	17/12/91	The Defector (58)		
59	8/1/92	The Hunted (59)		
60	15/1/92	Deja Q (61)		

It looks like 'High Ground' has been banned by the BBC. They have felt that an episode about terrorism was not appropriate at this time.

RUMOURS OF NEW 'TREK'

TV Guide 21-27/12/91, carried an article about rumours of new Trek but they are only rumours.

The success of ST VI has prompted discussions of yet another sequel. And reports in the trade papers are suggesting that a second TV spinoff is also under consideration. Dan Madson, president of the ST Official Fan Club, is quoted as saying, "I've definitely heard that Paramount is considering some sort of spinoff." Word is that the upcoming series would be a prequel, portraying incidents before the 23rd Century Star Date of the original series. No one is saying yet whether the new series would be another live-action series or an animated children's programme. Rick Berman, executive producer of ST:TNG, declined to comment.

STAR TREK IN THE NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton

The purpose of this column is to let you know which magazines to look out for as well as letting you know some of what has been printed in the papers. Most magazines are available from the book shops in the info sheets.

STAR TREK THE OFFICIAL FAN CLUB 83 December/January 1992.

Interviews with Nicolas Meyer and Michelle Forbes (Ensign Ro), article on Gene Roddenberry

STARLOG 174 January 1991.

Articles about Patrick Stewart and his one man show, A Christmas Carol; Leonard Nimoy and Spock; Captain Sulu; and George Clayton Johnson who wrote Man Trap.

TV ZONE 25 December 1991.

Article on 'The Prime Directive' in original Trek; Reviews of The Rift by Peter David, the first British printing of The Making of Star Trek by Stephen E. Whitfield and Gene Roddenberry and Star Trek the Next Generation Technical Manual by Rick Sternbach and Michael Okuda.

TV ZONE 26 January 1992.

Article on 'Novelizing Star Trek Pt 1' and 'Starship Captains'; Reviews of the 3 volume reprint of Star Trek adaptations by James Blish and Perchance to Dream by Howard Weinstein.

STARBURST 160 December 1991

There's a lovely full page photo of Gene and one of Geordi, a short article on the return of Spock in the TNG episodes Unification 1 & 2 and an interview with Kim Cattrall, 'Spock's Woman'. Fantasia covered Conduit, the British ST Convention which was held last August.

STARBURST 161 January 1992

There's a short article on STVI:TUC

STARBURST YEARBOOK - SPECIAL 10 1991/1992

'Boldly Going', a look back at the 4th season of TNG, 'Still Going Boldly' a look at early 5th season TNG plus an article on Gene Roddenberry by Stuart Clark which includes the following:

STV missed its target somewhat and as a result Paramount provisionally agreed to a plan from Harve Bennett that would have re-cast the entire crew of the Starship Enterprise.

This was something that Gene could not allow.

At this time he had been very involved in building ST:TNG and many had assumed that his interest in the original crew was now rather minimal. While waging war

with the Paramount executives about the lunacy of re-casting Kirk, Spock, McCoy etcetera, he began to weave in small references to the Klingon/Federation war and the peace treaty of "seventy-five years ago" in ST:TNG.

In essence it was Gene who provided the perfect spring-board for the twenty-fifth anniversary film, Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country. He is directly responsible for there being a continuation of the original crew as well as the creation of the next generation.

The Twenty-Fifth anniversary has been soured considerably by the passing of this great man.

Not only did Gene Roddenberry make it all possible, he remained true to his original vision of Star Trek.

No matter how long Star Trek may continue, in films or on television, it is clear that Science Fiction in general will never be the same again.

STAR TREK POSTER BOOKS

Issue 11 - Articles on Phasers and Photon Torpedoes, The Arsenal of Freedom and Symbiosis.

Issue 12 - Articles on Geordi La Forge, Skin of Evil and We'll Always Have Paris.

STAR TREK VI: THE OFFICIAL MOVIE MAGAZINE Delux Collector Edition, Starlog.

Contains articles on the actors and the film plus lots of photos.

OMNI (December 1991) - 4 page interview with Nicholas Meyer talking about Star Trek 6 and his feelings about working with Star Trek over the years. This edition also contains a one page article by Melinda Snodgrass. She criticises the philosophy of Star Trek and says it interferes with making a TV show, which is made purely for money. (Mike Mullen)

FANTAZIA 18 Articles on Gene Roddenberry, Star Trek VI and Wil Wheaton

VARIETY (Dec 2nd, 1991) - Star Trek 25th Anniversary edition, great Front and Back covers, ST6 front and TNG back. Includes 13 large pages of Star Trek articles with many adverts placed by the cast of both series passing on messages of congratulation for 25 years of Star Trek and sympathy for the death of Gene Roddenberry. (Mike Mullen) See fuller report on this magazine later.

"Kirk Won't Trek Again For \$2M" Daily Record 5/10/91

According to this William Shatner has refused to make a guest appearance in ST:TNG and it's cost him \$2 Million. An insider said, "Bill thinks the show is brilliant but didn't want to appear."

"Starry-eyed!" Evening Times 9/10/91.

Article about Wil Wheaton where he says he thinks they are bound to make a film with the TNG cast.

"Wagon Train to the Stars" Newsweek 4/11/91

Article about Gene and Star Trek.

"Next Generation visit keeps Spock fans beaming" USA Today 4/11/91?

Article about Spock in TNG 2-parter, Unification. Leonard Nimoy says, "I really was not in touch with the extent to which the fans were disturbed by questions of loyalty. It's like a family feud: those who don't watch the new show feel left behind; fans of the new show are tired of being accused of being disloyal. So there's a sense of closure, of validation, of being part of the body of Star Trek for all of them." Spock-Nimoy as peacemaker, as ambassador of good will. How logical. And how timely.

"Spock treks to meet his logical successor" - Spock meets Data.

Brent Spiner says, "Aside from all the reverberations of the years hitting us, it was just thrilling to have him on the set. It was like working with a visiting dignitary. We were on our best behaviour - for about 10 hours. But when we realized Leonard was just as much fun as we were, we pretty much resumed our usual antics."

"Two generations to boldly go together" London Evening Standard 7/11/91.
Short article on the TNG episode Unification.

"Star Trek's favourite alien boldly crosses his final frontier" Sunday Mirror 10/11/91. Article about Kim Cattrall in STVI. I don't think they are talking about the same film as seen in the States - Spock love scenes and marriage!? As to Spock being 130 years old in ST VI...

"Ear, I Go, Guys" Sun 22/11/91

Article saying Leonard Nimoy stormed out of a LA press bash for STVI because reporters kept asking him about his ears.

"Star Date For Trekkies" Glasgow Evening Times 25/11/91

Article about the the Away Team local group meeting which was held in the Central Hotel on December 8. The article starts with a command from Ann Neilson, "Repeat after me, I will not send up The Away Team. I will give a balanced viewpoint. I will not call them looneys."

The article is factual and ends with "They're not looneys, but pleasant folks indulging in a harmless and edifying hobby while pretending to be people who live 78 years after the Enterprise hung up its photon torpedoes.

You'll say anything in the throes of a Klingon death grip."

"Patrick Klings on to a Fortune" Daily Star 27/11/91.

Article saying Patrick Stewart has landed a 100% pay rise. He is quoted as saying, "My overtime pay one week was five times my annual British salary!" The article says the BBC still haven't bought the 4th season of TNG.

"Vulcan temptress takes Spock to new limits" London Evening Standard 4/12/91

This article insinuates that Spock's mind-meld with Lt Valeris could be the Vulcan's equivalent of sex. "You could put anything that you wanted on it because no one has ever seen Vulcans do it," said Kim.

"Off the beaten Trek" The Philadelphia Inquirer 8/12/91.

An article about William Shatner where he talks about STVI and Star Trek.

"Starship Bent-erprise" The Sun 12/12/91.

"Beam me up, Ducky!" Daily Record 13/12/91

It seems the show now has its own homosexual club in San Francisco. William Shatner is quoted as saying, "I guess there are a lot of men on the Enterprise. Maybe it's all those tight uniforms."

"Why Morag's Having a Ball" Edinburgh Evening News 12/12/91

According to this Morag Brownlie played Cinders in a rather 'different' production of Cinderella in Belfast. It was Cinderella crossed with Star Trek and actually had Cinders as Captain Kirk's daughter!

"To boldly mutiny where no man's mutinied before" The People 15/12/91.

The article says that Kirk and Spock are facing a mutiny on the bridge as while they are saying ST VI is the last film the others led by Scotty say the fans want the films to go on forever. Jimmy Doohan says, "There's no way this is the last film. I don't care what Bill Shatner says, or what Leonard Nimoy says, or what the studio says. No matter how old we get, or how fat, or how grey - the fans don't care. They want the Star Trek crew to stay together until we die. And that's fine with me."

"Beaming Down on 25-year trek" Daily Express 19/12/91.

Compton Miller, who admits to generally hating sci-fi films, gave a favourable review of The Defector. "I was pleasantly surprised by the script's freshness, tension and spirit."

"Star Trek: the nerd's charter" New Scientist 21/28 December, 1991.

Article about Star Trek and its effect on scientists and technical people.

"It's not surprising that MIT students, NASA engineers and other technical

people find the programme compelling. Star Trek is confirmation that what they are doing is worthwhile, that science is not an unnatural, sinister art that will lead to our destruction, but something that will allow us to become richer, fuller human beings."

"How to design an alien by Jack Cohen." Star Trek gets a few mentions.

"Nottingham: The Final Frontier"

Article about Patrick Stewart and the TNG episode Q Pid. Patrick says, "It must be every actor's dream to play Robin Hood. All the cast had a marvellous time."

"Enterprising 'lovebirds' stop Al Pacino dead in his tracks!" National Enquirer Sex - The Final Frontier! Filming a scene for the new movie "Frankie and Johnny," Al Pacino was supposed to catch screen girlfriend Michelle Pfeiffer making love to another guy - but when he burst through the bedroom door, he found Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock locked in a mock embrace!! Pacino's eyes popped out as if he'd been stunned by a phaser when William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy - dressed in their Enterprise uniforms - said together: "Ooops! Beam us up, Scotty, I think we're on the wrong set!" As the cast and crew guffawed, Pacino realized that it was a gag and began laughing so hysterically he almost collapsed! Shatner and Nimoy who had been shooting ST VI on a nearby soundstage, were talked into the prank by "Frankie" director Garry Marshall.

STAR TREK VI REVIEWS

The Dallas Morning News 6/12/91 - Despite the peace theme and a nod to environmentalism, ST VI doesn't try to be much more than what it is: a fun sci-fi fantasy with good costumes and decent one-liners.

In the end, it's also a fairly convincing (and lovably corny) farewell.

Variety 9/12/91 - This has a checklist of reviews, no doubt from various newspapers and publications, and says that in New York STVI received 14 Pro 6 Con and 4 Mixed, in Washington D.C. 9 Pro and 1 Mixed and in Los Angeles 6 Pro and 3 Mixed.

"Never mind the jabs at the cast's less-than-graceful aging and the hopes that the Captain's Log will indeed close on the original 'Star Trek' pics: Most critics working in three major domestic markets were starry-eyed over "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country."

ACTOR INFO

compiled by Janet Qarton

DeForest Kelley received his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in December.

Patrick Stewart is to star in a one-man Broadway show. The British actor who plays Captain Jean-Luc Picard will take thirty different parts in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol - Daily Record 11/12/91.

A few of the actors were spotted over the holiday season: James Doohan in the Man from UNCLE film, 'One of Our Spies is Missing'; William Shatner in 'Airplane 2'; Leonard Nimoy in 'The Brain Eaters' and 'Wagon Train'; DeForest Kelley in 'Warlock'; Patrick Stewart in 'Screenplay Special; The Mozart Inquest' Whoopi Goldberg in 'The Color Purple' and 'Tales from the Whoop'; LeVar Burton in a small clip on a Ch. 4 programme about Computer Graphics; Brent Spiner in 'The Manhunt for Claude Dallas' and 'Sunday In the Park With George'; Wil Wheaton in 'Stand By Me'; Gates McFadden in 'The Cosby Show' on Dec 27th and Jeffrey Hunter in 'The Searchers'.

Christopher Hayes, who appeared in Star Trek III, died of a heart attack on Nov 12th.

VARIETY 2/12/91 - STAR TREK 25th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

by Janet Quarton

This issue contains 16 pages of adverts and articles on Star Trek. We would like to share some of the full and part page adverts with you.

A zest for adventure
of exploration;
A shining affirmation
of the human potential;
A stellar voyage
on the glorious vision
of Gene Roddenberry.
... STAR TREK

George Takei

...

I'm proud to be a part
of the family.

We all miss our leader,
Gene Roddenberry.

Jonathan Frakes

...

Our love and admiration to the cast
of Star Trek and our deepest sorrow
that Gene Roddenberry will not share
another 25 years with us.

William and Marcy Shatner

...

25 YEARS
of
WONDERFUL MEMORIES

Congratulations to all who have
shared in the success of STAR TREK.

All that is missing is... Gene

DeFOREST KELLEY

...

A unique quarter of a century,

Congratulations,

Patrick Stewart

Gene

Gene, You Future Visionary,
Gene, You Gave Me Tears And Laughter
Gene, You shined The Starlight On My Dreams

Gene, A Daring Flying Hero
Gene, You Always Soar With Eagles
Gene, Your Universe Was Meant to Be.

Gene, Great Bird Of My Galaxy.
You Gave Me Wings And You Set Me Free...
You Dreamed Our Spatial Family.

Gene, Your Boyish Grin's Deceiving
Gene, It Isn't Easy Being
Gene, I'm Sure You Know Just What I Mean

Gene, Great Bird Of My Galaxy.
You Gave Me Wings And You Set Me Free...
You Dreamed Our Star Trek Family.

Gene, You Showed us Galaxies Afar,
You Tied Our Hopes To Every Star,
We Are Lucky You Are Who You Are...

Our Loving... Gene

Thanks Gene for 25 great years.

Nichelle Nichols

Out of this World - GNP Crescendo Records

...

Happy To Have
been aboard!

Alexander Courage

...

Many Starships have come...
and some will go. But never has
one brought the joy, enlightenment
and hope to so many generations of
earthlings. Truly ... may you live
long and prosper. And thanks for
making us a small part of Star Trek:
The Next Generation.

Digital Magic

Since this large format (approx 14" x 11") weekly entertainment magazine is not as readily available in Britain as the other magazines and as it is a mine of information I decided to give it fuller coverage than usual.

Some of the facts.

Together the two Star Trek series have grossed more than \$200 million in domestic syndication. For the first run of TNG instead of charging the stations Paramount sells 7 minutes of advertising and due to TNG's high position on the ratings they charge \$100,000 for a 30-second national spot (no other syndicated series charges that much. A source at Paramount said that some spots in the TNG episode with Spock ('Unification') fetched \$200,000.

Treks to the Box Office. Negative Costs/Domestic Film Rentals in millions of \$.
ST:TMP 44/56; STII:TWOK 12/40; STIII:TSFS 16/39; STIV:TVH 22/57; STV:TFF 32/27.

Books - In 25 years ST has spawned over 100 titles and over 30 million copies in print. Pocket currently prints an average of 350,000 to 400,000 copies of each new novel. In 1991 alone Pocket Books sold 4 million copies of old and new Trek books.

Merchandise - Paramount have licensed 35 companies to pump out Trek items, the three biggest licensees are Simon & Schuster re: Pocket Books (novelizations), Franklin Mint (chess sets, tankards etc.) and Impel Marketing (trading cards).

Videos - Over 10 million videos have been sold in the U.S. Over 60% of vid sales are from the movies.

. . . .

Well that is just a toe in the water, so to speak. It is a magazine well worth having if you like this kind of info. Unfortunately I don't see an advert for back issues but Linda Watt gives the British address as 34/35 Newman Street, London W1P 3PD. Tel. 071 637 3663.

STAR TREK VI - THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY

SPOILER ALERT! Although the contributors don't say much about the plot, Rick's comments in particular give away a few minor details.

Mary Soon Lee - On 6th December, filled with high hopes, I went to the first performance of Star Trek VI at my local cinema - and I was not disappointed. I found the film entertaining, moving and altogether fitting for what may be the final film with the original cast.

Immediately after the Paramount logo, they had a screen simply saying "For Gene Roddenberry" and for me that was the most touching part of a powerful film.

All the original cast are back, and all of them are treated with dignity. Mark Lenard has a small part as Sarek, and Grace Lee Whitney appears as well. I don't want to give away the plot, but I will say that all Sulu fans should be delighted by George Takei's role.

This was not a perfect film, and was evidently completed in a hurry (for example, when I saw it the credits incorrectly spelled Uhura as Uhuru). At times I would have liked the plot to be more solid, but none of the minor flaws came close to spoiling the film. Indeed, after seeing it I immediately bought a ticket for the evening performance, and once again I was not disappointed!

Rick Prestien - And now for the really BIG news; I have seen Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country twice so far! The movie opened here on Friday (Dec 6th) and I am writing this on Dec 8th. The entrance line (queue to you) was 100 yards long

but my friend and I bravely went where... (no, no, sorry I can't help it)... bravely stood in line and actually got into the second showing. This one is *great*, the best ever! A lot of action with frequent plot twists.. I know this movie will not open in Britain until February, but I'm not sure whether it will be before or after the next newsletter. To be safe, I have kept my comments very generalized.

1) The title of the movie, "The Undiscovered Country" is from a line by William Shakespeare in Hamlet Act 3 scene i (during Hamlet's To be or not to be soliloquy). As used by Shakespeare, death is the undiscovered country, but as used in the movie, the *future* is the undiscovered country. This line is spoken in the 'banquet' scene near the beginning of the movie. You will not believe the audacity of what the Klingons say next! If I had been directing this movie, I could not have resisted some reaction shots around the table (someone should have choked!) I myself practically fell out of my seat - watch closely for this.

2) This movie has more quotable lines than all the previous ones put together. I think many will become instant classics and be quoted for decades. My favourite has to be the one near the end of the movie when Kirk says "Once again, we've saved civilisation as we know it"!!!! Here are some more great examples:

Spock (to Kirk): "There is an old Vulcan saying, 'Only Nixon could go to China'."

Spock (to Valeris): "Logic, logic, logic. Logic is the beginning of wisdom, not the end. You must have faith that the universe will unfold as it should."

Klingon General Chang: "We need breathing room."

Kirk: "Earth, Hitler, 1938."

McCoy (to Kirk): "What is it with you anyway?" (It's funny in context.)

Kirk: "Spock, you want to know something, everyone is human."

Spock: "I find that remark... insulting."

General Chang: "Once more into the breach... old... friends."

McCoy (to Spock): "I'd give real money if he would shut up."

Chekov: "Course heading, Captain?"

Kirk: pause. "...second star on the right and straight on till morning."
(Peter Pan would be proud.)

3) The special effects in this movie are excellent. My favourites are the "trial" scene and the opening event. What do you think?

4) I loved the character played by Iman in the prison camp. Did anyone catch the name of her species?

5) To Helen: re Midcon - Richard Arnold (from N/L 19) Richard answered truthfully during the Q&A session when he said that Chekov is not made a Captain... but Sulu was! Furthermore, the dog is great on the Ice Planet and looks sufficiently menacing!

6) I can confirm that Michael Dorn plays his (TNG - Worf's) own grandfather in the movie. While his efforts in the movie are doomed to failure, it is clear that he has an honorable family name and that he does his best to succeed. This movie takes place before the 'disgrace'. With the appearance by Dorn, a connection, an interchange, a continuity has been established. As NASA would say, we have contact! This transition between the two casts in both ST:TNG (McCoy and Spock) and the movie ST:TUC (Worf's grandfather) is very important, I believe, as a symbolic joining of fans who may prefer one cast over the other. Whatever our preferences, we are all one family.

7) The National Enquirer article (see Latest Star Trek news, N/L 19) has the plot almost correctly. They are wrong on a few important matters, but are correct in the main. (Warning - check your last issue, p.11, only if you want to know!)

8) Take heart all; there is absolutely nothing in Star Trek VI which would present any difficulty in the making of Star Trek VII! After all, they killed off Spock in one and destroyed the Enterprise in another, and *that* didn't stop them. The final words of ST:TUC are spoken by Kirk as a Captain's log entry and to me this is the key. It is significant, I think, that Kirk never uses the phrase 'the next generation' or 'the new generation'. Instead he talks about posterity, and the last line of the entry goes, "They will continue the voyages we have begun and journey to all the undiscovered countries, boldly going where no man, or *no one*, has gone before. (Emphasis mine.)

9) Big Spock fans who are purists will be amazed (appalled?) at the emotion he demonstrates in one scene. Could it be that Spock's Human side is becoming stronger as he grows older??

10) Notice: some of the scenes/dialogues appearing in trailers/previews you may have seen are in fact cut out in the final movie version. Don't say I didn't warn you. (Do you think Paramount could be doing that on purpose?)

Finally, now for the *really big* news: after the movie was over on Friday, my friend and I went to a nearby restaurant for dinner. While eating, our waitress noticed a Star Trek VI ticket stub lying on the table. She asked us if we'd been to see the movie, and we said, "Yes, it was great, she must see it... etc." After we finished babbling, she casually mentioned that one of the stars was actually in the restaurant! We tried our best to keep our composure. Then she proceeded to point out Nichelle Nichols (well camouflaged, but undeniably her)! Heart failure!

Over the next 20 minutes we discussed various strategies for approaching a legend in a public place, and finally we decided on a stand-off, grovelling approach (after all, Hollywood stars are worried about crazies these days). I was lead man, and after Nichelle had finished ordering dinner, I very humbly asked from a distance, "Ms. Nichols, would you mind signing an autograph?" I was determined not to disturb her if she showed the slightest hesitation, but she very graciously answered, "No, not at all."

I'm not too sure what happened next, but all of a sudden I found myself standing next to Uhura while she signed my ticket stub! I thought at the time that this was some sort of breach between fiction and reality - but it didn't bother me too much. While Nichelle was signing my friend's stub I made inane apologies to everyone at the table. She was dining with six other people; two were from the local cinema 111 theatre chain that was showing the movie, two "suits" were from Paramount (looked like bean counters to me), and two others were personally with Nichelle. My friend later speculated that one of those with her could have been her sister (there was a faint resemblance) and the other was probably a make-up/hairdresser type. Nichelle was scheduled to appear at the 12 midnight showing of the movie in costume as Uhura (those tickets were \$25!) The whole thing was over in five minutes. It was a perfect end to a perfect day.

Mary Frost: On a recent business trip to Philadelphia I managed to persuade my colleagues with whom I was travelling (my boss and the engineering director) that going to see Star Trek VI would be a good way to spend a Tuesday evening. After much persuasion we set off to find a local cinema, amid many complaints and comments to the effect that this had better be worth it. We managed to locate a cinema 1/2 hr before the film started and after a hurried pizza (Pizza Hut in America is terrible - definitely a place to be avoided in future) we settled into the cinema.

Whilst the film was enjoyable, and had many humorous moments, I felt somehow let down by it. Part of this was probably because I was not in the most receptive mood - I was still suffering from jet lag and struggling to stay awake. At times

the characters did not ring quite true - for example I thought it was out of character for Spock to use the Vulcan mind meld to force the information from Valeris with no hesitation and no apparent discomfort. Kirk also, at many times, seemed out of character - this did not seem like the Kirk who was willing to stop fighting the Klingons in Day of the Dove. There were nice touches - the dinner with the Klingons was hilarious, everyone trying to be polite and not quite succeeding. It was nice to see Sulu get his own ship, but a pity that none of the others seemed to have progressed. In summary it was a watchable film - I liked it better than STV, but nowhere near as much as STII or STIV. Having said that I think I'll watch it again when it is released here to see if I still get the same impression. The only comment from my engineering director was that he didn't realise it was a comedy - he found it all rather amusing!

MERCHANDISE

compiled by Janet Qarton

BOOKS -

- | | | |
|-----|-------|---|
| Nov | TNG | Unification by Jeri Taylor, based on the 2 part TNG episode.
Pocket Books. |
| Dec | TNG19 | Perchance to Dream by Howard Weinstein. Pocket Books & Titan |
| Jan | | Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country novel by J.M. Dillard based on
the film. Pocket Books |
| Feb | TNG20 | Spartacus by T.L. Mancour. Pocket Books. |
| Mar | P58 | Faces of Fire by Michael Jan Friedman. Pocket Books. |

The ST:TNG Technical Manual by Michael Okuda and Rick Sternbach. Pocket Books \$13.00 US (£9.95 UK from At The Sign of the Dragon). Boxtree Press £11.99. This doesn't just include drawings - there is a lot of text as well. A must for the technically minded fan or anyone who wants to know more about 1701 D.

Star Fleet Technical Manual by Franz Joseph. Titan Books, £8.99.
This book was originally published by Ballantine Books in 1975.

Reunion by Michael Jan Friedman. The first ST:TNG Hardcover Novel - Captain Picard's past and present collide on board the U.S.S. Enterprise.

The Classic Episodes Vol 1 - 3 1991 The 25th Anniversary Editions adapted by James Blish. Corgi £3.99 and Bantam Books \$5.99 each.

This is a re-issue of Star Treks 1 - 12 by James Blish, now in 3 volumes, 1 season per volume and the episodes printed in production order. Volume 1 contains an introduction by D.C. Fontana, the prefaces from the original Star Treks 3 - 11 and the forward from Star Trek 12. Volume 2 contains an article by David Gerrold and Volume 3 an article by Norman Spinrad. Two episodes not in the books are Mudd's Women and I Mudd as these were originally published separately, along with an original Mudd story, in Mudd's Angels by Judy Blish.

CIC Video will finish the third season of ST:TNG in February '92. The fourth season will be complete by June and the fifth season by October. That leaves the way clear for season six to be released almost simultaneously with its transmission in the States. [Janet: They must be intending to release three tapes a month.]

'Collectors Edition' boxed set of wide screen versions of the first five Star Trek films. Scott Carrick says that he has heard from someone at CIC that they are bringing forward the release of this to February and that there will be a free tape of interviews with the set. Price around £50 - £60.

U.S.S. Enterprise Hologram A.H. Prismatic have produced a very nice 4 1/2" x 3 1/4" hologram of the series Enterprise set in a 10" x 8" black mount. It is expensive at £19.95 but very nice. A letter we received from them says that they have

recently taken out a license to produce an exclusive range of holograms and holographic gifts with characters from Star Trek and ST:TNG. They've already introduced the hologram of the Enterprise and the coming months will see the introduction of holographic stickers, badges, boxes, magnets, bookmarks and keyrings. They will also be introducing commemorative laser discs (diffraction foil discs which create 3D light patterns when spun), for the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of the original series.

These items will be available in museum shops, gift shops and novelty stores throughout the UK in the very near future.

You can order the U.S.S. Enterprise by mail order:

R1021/88PM Enterprise 1701 Hologram..... £19.95 (inclusive of VAT & postage)
from Star Trek Merchandise, AH Prismatic Ltd., New England House, New England
Street, Brighton, E. Sussex BN1 4GH.

VIDEOS -ST:TNG

Deja Q/A Matter of Perspective (31)

Yesterday's Enterprise/The Offspring (32)

Sins of the Father/Allegiance (33)

Due Next

Captain's Holiday/Tin Man (34)

Hollow Pursuits/The Most Toys (35)

Sarek/Menage A Troi (36)

We're not sure yet how they will release Best of Both Worlds - on one tape or two.

ST-ANIMATIONS - £10.99

1 - More Tribbles, More Troubles, The Infinite Vulcan, Beyond the Farthest Star and Yesteryear.

2 - The Survivor, The Lorelei Signal and One of Our Planets is Missing.

The TNG 2-parter with Spock, 'Unification', is to be released on video rental in February.

The Star Trek IV sound-track is available on CD (£15.99) & Cassette (£9.99) from Sheffield Space Centre. (info Mike Mullen)

Star Trek: The Astral Symphony (info. from the States - via Eddie Yau)

For those of you who enjoy the music from ST movies, Paramount Pictures have released a new tape/cd called "Star Trek: The Astral Symphony" on their own label (item £12958). The tape contains a compilation of music from the first 5 movies. Here is what's on the tape version in case you want to pick it up:-

Side One

1. "Life is a Dream" STV
2. "The Meld" ST:TMP
3. "Returning to Vulcan" ST:III
4. "Battle in the Mutara Nebula" ST:II
5. "Enterprise Clears Moorings" ST:II
6. "Chekov's Run" ST:IV
7. "Ilia's Theme" ST:TMP
8. "Without Help" STV
9. "The Enterprise" ST:TMP

Side Two

1. "Prologue and Main Title" ST:III
2. "Hospital Chase" ST:IV
3. "The Whaler" ST:IV
4. "An Angry God" STV
5. "Genesis Countdown" ST:II
6. "The Katra Ritual" ST:III
7. "Home Again: End Credits" ST:IV

Brent Spiner's tape, 'Ol Yellow Eyes Is Back' is also available from Sheffield Space Centre. (info Carol Keen)

We suggest you write first to make sure they do still have copies available.

Star Trek: 25th Anniversary Computer game for MS:DOS computers and possibly others, including the Amiga. According to the blurb it combines a realistic, 3D space flight simulator with a wide variety of role-playing adventures to create a gripping game of galactic exploration. You'll play James T. Kirk and experience the thrill of piloting the Enterprise. Interplay, published in Europe by Electronic Arts, 11-49 Station Road, Langley, Berks SL3 8YN.

25th Anniversary Star Trek Tankard Franklin Mint \$195.00.

This is now being advertised in the U.S.A. so there is a good chance it will be offered in Britain. "It is crafted of fine pewter and hand finished to a deep patina. One striking panel depicts the U.S.S. Enterprise soaring through the galaxy. The U.S.S. Enterprise appears on a second panel confronting a Klingon Cruiser. And the portraits of Kirk, Spock and McCoy are seen in dramatic relief on the third panel. The distinctive handle is dramatically embellished with a proof-quality medal minted in sterling silver with the Starfleet Command insignia electroplated in 24-karat gold. The tankard is 7" high".

The **Treklet** is a suit for babies, designed like an Admiral's uniform - the right thing for Trek-crazy mothers. It costs about \$35.00 -- for 6-months old baby (the price varies with the size) and looks just beautiful. The address is: Dianna Dodson, 7330 - 15th N.E., Seattle, WA 98115, U.S.A. SAE plus IRC for information. (info Waltraud Zucha-Glass).

There is an album called 'Golden Throats - The Great Celebrity Sing Off' 1988 Rhina Records Inc. This features Proud Mary and If I Had a Hammer sung by Leonard Nimoy, and Lucy In the Sky With Diamonds and Mr Tamborine Man sung by William Shatner. (info Sharon Rigby who says it's great if you want to clear a party.)

POSTBAG

We welcome your letters of comment and discussion for this section on the understanding that they will be printed and may be edited for length or content at our discretion.

Some pointers: When referring to anything in a previous n/l make it clear what you are talking about for those who do not have that newsletter.

Keep your letters as short as possible - a maximum of 700-750 words or one of 'our' pages. If you find this impossible consider whether you should be writing an article instead. Longer letters will be edited for length. Where more than one person responds to a question with similar answers we may edit out some of these just so that we can get more in the newsletter.

We encourage active discussion, but please try to avoid negative and aggressive letters.

Keep letters on a separate sheet from other submissions and put 'for postbag'.

Sheila Clark - Dundee

Cath Russell's comments on Chris Boucher wanting a hunk to play the lead in Star Cops made me chuckle wryly. He's probably influenced by the fact that the men seem to want bimbos to ogle, and sees women as having the same shallow outlook on what is sexy. In fact, most women fans (of anything) seem far more drawn to character, etc, just as Chris says. But traditionally men do seem to see women as shallow, without two serious thoughts to rub together; for years reading schemes in school showed the little boy playing with toy planes, etc, while little girl played with a doll and helped Mummy with the shopping and cooking and cleaning... At least today's reading schemes show tomboys able to play football with the best of them!

At the same time, even as enlightened a series as Star Trek hasn't played entirely fair by the women. As people keep pointing out, the regular women characters are in the 'caring' professions; the fighter was killed (though I grant you, Denise Crosby wanted out) never having been given too much chance to show how competent she was. Now I'm actually not too bothered about the lack of women in a series (maybe just as well, if as Marnie Mosiman said at Silvercon, only about 17% of acting jobs are available for women); if my favourite character in something is female, I reckon there's something far wrong with the males! But I do think that TV producers should remember that apart from physical strength, most women can do anything most men can do (and even then some women are stronger than a lot of

men)... and most men are capable of doing anything (except have a baby) a woman 'traditionally' does; and TV roles should reflect that.

Claymores; even with training a claymore was a suicidal weapon! It was worn in a scabbard that hung down the back - anything else would have tripped the wearer - and must have been quite difficult to draw. There were, as I understand it, only two practical ways of using one; a) by the rank and file, kneeling with the hilt braced against the ground and the point upwards as a defence against charging cavalry, and b) by the leaders, as a status symbol to show their strength, who swung it from side to side. If it made contact it would take an enemy's head off in very short order; but logic says that someone small and fast armed with a dagger could nip in when the claymore was at one end of its swing and catch its wielder between the ribs while he was still trying to halt its momentum and bring it back.

Nicole Comtet - Boussy St Antoine, France

I found the letters and poems on Gene Roddenberry very moving as they reflect the loss we all feel now that he is gone.

As usual I enjoyed all the information and comments such as Classic Trek review and book and zine reviews which I find so useful when I wish to enlarge my collection. I have just finished reading Legacy, reviewed by Sheila Clark in N/L 18 and found it quite enjoyable, although a little 'jumpy' indeed. Sue Embury has done a wonderful review of one of my favourite zines, Academy Days by Jackie Stone, and I fully support her recommendation to all Spock fans not to miss it.

As for the Postbag, it is bulging to the point that it takes up almost half of the N/L, evidence of the interest IDIC members take in exchanging their views. I confess that, as usual, I just skipped through the letters and reviews concerning TNG, but I find the letters generally informative. The discussion about Data is still going on, I see, but for my part, I quit now, and I thank everyone who agreed with my reasoning and said so.

Thank you also to Gloria Fry for her... shall I say it again?... farfetched story on the haggis in Loch Ness. A Scottish gem!

I have just come back from the annual Spotlight Convention where Leonard Nimoy made his first appearance at con in England, and all I can say is that Leonard has surpassed anything I anticipated. During the two and a half hours of a fascinating talk, he kept us under the spell, especially the six French fans who had never seen him in the flesh, and this was an experience we shall never forget. He may be 60, as Paramount, media and others are fond of repeating, but he is damn good-looking and I have seldom met a man endowed with such simplicity, goodness and sense of humour - in a word, such charisma as Leonard Nimoy. Through his books, various roles and interviews I suspected that he is a very special person, but now that I have seen him and listened to him, I am sure of it. Sorry if I've lost all 'sense of perspective', but the 210 people who packed the con room will certainly agree with me.

I specially recall what he said about his film Never Forget, that he was going to present at Oxford the following day and that we had the privilege of watching at the con. He has given here one of his most dramatic and moving performances as the survivor of Auschwitz, Mel Mermelstein, one of his best roles in my opinion. He said that this film is accurate with the resurgence everywhere of the neo-Nazi movement. Do not miss it if you have a chance to see it.

Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh

'The best measure of maturity and wisdom in a human being is the recognition of value received in hearing another say "I disagree with you for the following reasons".' I think that tells us where Gene Roddenberry would have stood in the Great Mailbox Debate, and I hope that anyone who cannot bear to read an opinion of his or her favourite character which falls short of total adulation thinks about these wise words very carefully.

I saw that National Enquirer article (and hoped that Janet didn't). Even I waxed indignant at the slurs on both Gene Roddenberry and William Shatner. For the sake of those who didn't see it, it said Roddenberry died a disappointed man as he wanted Star Trek to be a 'team' show but William Shatner became the big star in it and used his clout to insist on directing ST V. It made no mention at all of TNG, which is more of a team show, so if that was what GR wanted he got it in the end. It didn't explain why Shatner waited until the fifth film to 'insist' on directing and *didn't* insist on directing the sixth. I don't know that calling him *the* star of Star Trek is right either. If you asked a group of non-fans who only knew what they'd seen in the media which character they associated with Star Trek I'd say at least as many would say 'Mr. Spock' as 'Captain Kirk'. To be accurate, probably they'd say 'Dr. Spock' or 'him with the ears'.

To Kirstie Jordan - don't you think the family histories of Presidents would be a matter of historical record? The family background of notable astronauts was. And such a spectacular rags to riches story as the bum in City turning into the parent of a President would have become a legend. But I do agree that every tiny detail could be significant, which is why I believe Gillian Taylor wasn't going to any science ship at all (ST IV). They told her that to keep her quiet, but she was in for a mind-wipe and return to the moment she left. Sheila's brilliant notion that Edith and the bum were originally due to die together appeals to me.

To Margaret Rainey - now I see why they edited out what I said about James Doohan's accent. You'd already said much the same. But one - just one - non-Scottish actress did manage a perfect accent. Maggie Smith DBE, in The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, did perfectly reproduce the Morningside accent of Edinburgh (there are two other Edinburgh accents). She, however, is a very great actress and multiple Oscar winner. James Doohan is far from being the worst attempt I've heard.

To Gloria Fry - as a Scot with an Irish name myself I can't deny that the British are a mongrel lot. However, the converse is true - a Scottish-sounding name may not mean Scottish blood. Take Kirk. The Scots for 'church' is 'kirk'; but the Dutch for 'church' is 'kerke', pronounced 'kirk', so any Kirk could be of Dutch descent. Or, since the immigration officers at Ellis Island were notable for giving people instant name changes, Kirk could be descended from some Pole or Czech or Russian whose name began with K and consisted mostly of consonants and who was turned into Kirk by someone unwilling to try to spell the real name on his immigration documents.

To Elena Bond - Why have I the impression you like Paul Darrow almost as much as you like Jonathan Frakes? But God, for some mysterious reason known only to Himself, was lying to you. The avenging angel is of course Sergeant Benton in (the Pertwee incarnation of) Dr. Who. This cannot be doubted. It is he who, at the command of the Archangel Michael (or Brigadier Lethbridge-Stuart as he is known on Earth) gives ten rounds of rapid fire to the Devil (or 'chappie with wings' as the Archangel calls him) in a direct assault on the forces of evil.

To Jeff Martin - I think perhaps you and Allison Blandford (who made the 'great novelst' comment to which you took exception) have a linguistic misunderstanding. You seem to take the view she meant 'great novelist' as 'up there with Dickens and Thackeray and Jane Austin and the Brontes, will still be read when he has been dead for centuries'. If she meant that, then I would agree it was over-egging the pudding. But I think Allison used 'great' in a colloquial way, as I might say, "I went on holiday to Paris last May and had a great time" (which I did) where 'great' means 'enjoyable, entertaining'. If she meant it in that sense (perhaps she'll write in to clarify what she did mean) then I'm sure you wouldn't quarrel with that.

Janet, Ron Goulart is a well-known SF and SF-related non-fiction writer. According to popular rumour he is also the man who helped William Shatner with the books. And no, I am not getting at Shatner. If he sought the assistance of a

ghost writer he would be neither the first nor last celebrity to do so. For example, the first Star Wars novel which went out as by George Lucas was actually written by Alan Dean Foster, using Lucas' ideas.

Mark Hulme - Wallasey, Merseyside

I read Sheila's review of *The Rift* by Peter David and thought it was a pretty fair appraisal of the book. I did, however, like the segment at the beginning of the story involving Pike and his crew.

The reason I mention the review is that I wish to express my disgust at Titan Books for changing the cover of the book from that of the original American one to a cover that is totally incorrect. The reason it is incorrect is that it portrays Kirk and Spock circa the original TV series, when the actual story takes place in the period of the Star Trek movies, presumably post Star Trek 5.

I know some people may think I'm nit picking as the book's cover does not in any way affect the contents, but it has annoyed me that Titan have been so amateurish in the production of this book.

Pam Baddeley - Farnborough

To Eddie Yau - strange how people have different views of an episode. I'd say *The Enemy* is one of my *least* favourite 3rd season episodes because I found it so unbelievable. After all, La Forge is perfectly all right once they beam up - no sign of nerve damage at all, let alone blindness - and the Romulan seems O.K. too, yet the first Romulan deteriorated and then died *aboard the ship*. This fact seems to be conveniently forgotten. It's the clangers like that which spoil TNG and I certainly can't think of an equivalent slip-up in Original Trek. Sack the script editor!

To Kirstie Jordan - thanks, I'm not the only one puzzling over 'The Ensigns of Command'. Quite a few TNG titles share this obscurity, don't they? The Arsenal of Freedom is vaguely O.K. - I can accept the Arsenal, but where does the Freedom come into it? And Up The Long Ladder? Frankly I'd have thought Unnatural Selection would have been a slightly more apt title. And some of the titles are too obvious or banal, like *The Battle or Angel One* - they sound like working titles to me. Surely something more evocative could have been chosen for the first and calling an episode after the planet seems to show a lack of ideas. This isn't meant to nit-pick; it's just that details are important - they add up to the big picture.

To Gaile Wood - if you're interested, some of the essays of (name not given) cover subjects like the proportion of life speed to the size of an animal. (He's an American palaeontologist/biologist.) His essays have been collected in a number of books such as *The Panda's Thumb*, *The Flamingo's Smile*.

Incidentally I have to update the info I gave about Brent Spiner's album. I got a letter from Albany Records to say he's done a deal with another company - Silva Screen Records. I phoned them (071 284 0525) and they said they could get the CD but Bay Cities hasn't filled any of their requests for cassettes. So I sent for a CD and have just got it; only problem is I've now got to wait till I see friends at the New Year who have a CD player! The address is Silva Productions Ltd, Mail Order Dept, Silva House, 261 Royal College St, London NW1 9LU. The CD is £11.95 inc. P&P, the cassette £7.50.

Could Margaret Rainey explain what stickers she means? I've bought quite a few TNG videos (due to the beloved BBC rescheduling it and what not) but I haven't had any of these mysterious stickers.

To Edward Woo - yes, the US rating system is called The Neilsons, but what I can't recall is how it is calculated, size of audience sampling etc. The UK BARB figures now, for the first time, include video watching of programmes; before, if people videoed a programme and watched it later, this was excluded from the calculations. It was factors like that which interested me.

I see you mention a book called *The Making of TNG* by Edward Gross. When was this published and who was publisher? I made enquiries about it earlier in the year but drew a blank with Andromeda Bookshop and The Sheffield Space Centre.

In the continuing Bread and Circuses debate, despite the various defences of Kirk, I'm with Kathleen Glancy; Kirk's flip comment about Drusilla shows his lack of sensitivity to the situation; and yes, if she's been told by her master to please the guest, she has to do a good job and appear to enjoy it or risk punishment.

A trivial point but one that has me puzzled; now do you pronounce Brent Spinner's surname. Is it 'spin' as in spinning or 'spine' as in backbone?

[Ed - On each video there is a white sticker marked 'One token'. Some shops have leaflets and you can use these tokens to send away for T-shirts etc., but you also have to pay so much money. Richard Arnold pronounces Spinner as in 'spine'.]

Kimberly Pederson - Olympia, Washington, USA

I went to the premiere of Star Trek VI - it was FANTABULOUS!!! Good, old-fashioned Classic Trek from start to finish. I don't know when VI will make its debut in Britain, but VI is a MUST SEE.

However, if there's a romance in VI for Spock, I missed the whole thing - and my eyes were glued to the screen the entire movie. The only thing Spock and Valeris do alone together is share a cup of Vulcan tea. If that's a romance, well, everyone's in for a lot of disappointment. Other than that, VI is excellent. Christopher Plummer is the best villain around since Khan. He plays his Klingon part with style and finesse.

Now I can't wait until the video comes out - this movie begs for 3 or 4 viewings, it is so delightful. *Don't miss it!*

Jeanette Hoffman - Dusseldorf, Germany

I'm a very big William Shatner fan, and I wonder if you could give me any information on if there's anybody out there writing special Kirk or TJ Hooker stories.

I laid hands on an issue of Hooker, a short-lived US zine, and about 25 episodes of TJ Hooker. I'm looking for another fan who'd like to do a 'little swapping'.

My stock includes about 25 English Hooker episodes, the zine, photos and loads of Star Trek stuff as US/UK/German books, zines, William Shatner videos as *The Outer Limits* (also Nimoy's episode), *Secrets of a Married Man*, *The Intruder*, *Big Bad Mama*, *Twilight Zone*, *Police Woman*, *Saturday Night Live*, and so on. I also collect videotapes from action to Sci-fi, which covers *Alien* - *Star Wars* on original tapes (about 250 by now), which I would swap.

I'd love to lay hands on the TJ Hooker pilot movie, which has never been shown on SKY or any other foreign station, the 25th Anniversary tape of *Star Trek Classic* in good quality, and any episode of *Quantum Leap*, which happens to be my second favourite show on TV.

Also, my sister is a 'Tour of Duty' fan - is there any fan group in Britain?

[Ed - if anyone wants to contact Jeanette, send your letter (24p stamp) to Sheila, who will address and forward it.]

Kirstie Jordan - Pilsey, Nr, Chesterfield

To Nina Lynch - Your 'initiation' ideas started me thinking (always a dangerous thing!) What has happened to the short/fat/less than beautiful people in the future? Are the 'less than perfect' exiled to some far-off planet that no-one ever goes to in case they're seen? Are they destined to live their lives

surrounded by other short/fat/less than beautiful people? Or maybe unborn babies are checked in some way to see if the above 'abnormalities' are present, and if so are terminated before birth? Basically, what I want to know is - why is everyone aboard the Enterprise tall, slim and beautiful/handsome? Even Worf's good-looking - for a Klingon!

Someone asked about least favourite TNG episodes. Two which come to mind are Shades of Grey, as I mentioned last N/L - it seemed a waste of time and energy and was, in my opinion, a rip-off; and Up the Long Ladder. I agree with Pam Baddeley - the Irish should not be portrayed this way.

To Eddie Yau - there are too many favourite lines, but two of my favourite first season scenes come from When the Bough Breaks, when Picard has to deal with Alexandria - first on Aldea, and then back on the bridge of the Enterprise. When he turned round and I saw her fluffy toy stuck to his back I just cracked up - especially at Data's expression. He just couldn't understand what was so funny to the rest of the bridge crew!

To Janet Quarton - I too was horrified and disgusted when I read *that* article in National Enquirer. It seems to be a sad fact of life that as someone well-known and well loved dies, so-called 'friends and colleagues' come crawling out of the woodwork to insult their memory.

To Gail Wood - I agree, Riker's chat-up lines are so bad I can't understand why any woman would fall for them! The Dauphin and Up the Long Ladder both contain examples of serious Bull - how does he get away with it?

On to the mini-debate about the two TNG doctors. I liked Dr. Pulaski, but my preference is for Dr. Crusher. This has absolutely nothing to do with the fact that I too am a red-head! Though I do believe that we red-heads should stick together!

Did anyone else notice the 'deliberate mistake' in The Enemy? One minute Wes is off to engineering to work on a beacon, and the next, the back of his head and shoulders are back on the bridge at his station. A short while after, he returns to the bridge to report on the beacon - as if he's been in engineering all the time! I know Wes is a genius, but even *he* can't possibly be in two places at once!

Finally, I must say how good it is to see Geordi having some fun and joining the away teams again! I was beginning to think that becoming Chief Engineer meant that you could never leave the ship!

Karen Sparks - Exeter

I heard the sad news about Gene on the radio during my lunch-hour at work. For the first time I really understood why people gather together at special places on the death of a famous and beloved figure, like at Buckingham Palace for royalty, and Gracelands for Elvis. I badly wanted to go somewhere to show I cared, and to be with others who would understand my shock and share my grief.

No-one who is not close to Trek can understand the influence Gene had on us. There is a great sense of loss at Gene's death but I feel a growing sense of wonder and awe at the life he lived - daring to share his dream, his vision of the future, he has touched and enriched the lives of many thousands of people he never even knew. The outpouring of respect and affection for the Great Bird has been tremendous and justly deserved. I hope Gene knew - really knew - how special he was to all of us.

I enjoyed reading the 25th Anniversary Special and was sorry I wasn't able to contribute. Brenda Kelsey's letter in particular stirred up one or two of my own memories. In pre-video days I also audio-taped Star Trek episodes off the TV. My major problem with this was remembering to stop the wretched cuckoo clock (which chimed every 15 minutes!) before starting the tape - otherwise touching scenes rather lost their impact, eg. "Jim, do you know what you just did?" CUCKOO. "He

knows, Doctor, he knows."

Another memory surfaced when reading other people's accounts of their earliest Trek memories. When I was about 9 or 10, all my 'best friends' at junior school used to go home for lunch, leaving me to face the horrors of the school canteen alone. For moral support I teamed up with a lad in a similar, sporadically friendless position and we whiled away our lunchbreaks by acting out Star Trek episodes. He always insisted on portraying the role of Spock (come to think of it he had the ears for it! - as well as the same kind of logical mind) and I would play EVERYONE else - Kirk, McCoy, Scotty plus alien of the week! (This could explain a lot about my mental development!)

I clearly remember, around the same age, the day I had the brilliant idea of writing My Very Own Star Trek Story. Eagerly I set to work (had dreadful trouble spelling the names, especially Uhura, but didn't let a triviality like that stop me!). The plot went something like: Enterprise is called to a planet whose inhabitants (the crew can see them on the viewscreen) are dying horribly from the effects of some mysterious poison gas. Kirk boldly beams down with a medical team to save them.....and they all die horribly too!! This was only on about page 3, and I was sadly perplexed and discouraged by the situation I had got my characters into, and not at all sure how to put it right - it didn't happen that way on TV! Wisely, I think, I put away this idea of writing Star Trek stories for about 15 years or so, by which time I had learned a little more (although perhaps not a lot more!) control over the writing process - at least I could keep my characters alive for longer than 3 pages where necessary!

Jon Vernon - Twickenham, Middlesex

To Kirstie Jordan - If time is distorted by influencing the past, how would you know? Surely your own records would be changed and everything would appear normal. This idea is borne out in "Assignment Earth" when only at the end of the episode can Spock and Kirk comment on Gary Seven's future on Earth. This is because the time line has been altered and, unlike earlier in the episode when Kirk was unsure of Seven's motives, he can now check the ship's historical records, which until Seven had completed his mission did not even exist.

To Gaile Wood - re Data and his battery intake: it seems likely that by the 24th century a battery only powering Data's thoughts and movements would take up a very small space and contain phenomenal power. After all, a hundred years previously Sargon's race in "Return to Tomorrow" had starship engines the size of walnuts, and as we have seen no evidence of Data recharging or replacing his batteries there are lamentably few alternatives as to what makes him tick.

To Heather Gibson - I think one of the reasons Troi's potential as a central character is not used by the writers as often as some fans might like is because her varied empathic abilities have made her too powerful, and therefore it is too easy for her to see through an adversary's subterfuge and (from the writer's point of view) spoil a tense and exciting plot. So the easiest solution is either to keep her character in the background or write a story based on her not being able to use her powers, which unfortunately is a sad indictment on the depth of her character.

If I may add my tuppenny worth about "The Royale", I admire the episode if only for the fact that it is one of the few that does not discover anything about the alien race that created the situation, something that in reality would happen far more when exploring the infinite mysteries of space.

Now some questions of my own. Has anyone got a good explanation as to why, in Classic Trek, depending on which stock photography the episode used, there are two distinct types of rear end to the ship's nacelles, one with slots within a curve, and the other, more familiar, ping-pong ball type. No answers about the availability of models will be accepted, it must be either the official answer or a damn good theory.

Also, in "The Ultimate Computer" can anyone explain the difference between the M5 computer dropping its defences (so it could suffer the death penalty) and Kirk dropping all his defences (to avoid the death penalty)? As this episode is in my top five, and this question has been playing on my mind for over twenty years, any input would be most welcome.

Finally, as I'm sure everybody has discovered, the animated series is now available in the shops. As yet I have only found the first seven episodes - three on the first tape and four on the second. CIC have redesigned the artwork on the cases, and other than the anomaly that there are sixty minutes on the first tape and ninety on the second, they seem to have done yet another good job in catering for us fans.

Gaile Wood - Tamworth, Staffs

re: N/L 19

First, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all, even though they be a little bit late!!

To Eddie Yau - my favourite T.N.G. quote has got to be in Q Pid when Picard's ladyfriend says to Riker: "Jean-Luc does a very good imitation of you." From the books, it has to be from Vendetta when Pulaski is saying to Riker: "I hear Worf has a son and Data a daughter?" and Riker quips: "Yes, but not with each other." I couldn't get my hat on!

Also, I'm grateful for the information regarding Data's input. I had visions of him toddling off to Kwikfit - and, as we know, "No-one's better than a Kwikfit Fitter." Puts a whole new complexion on 'jump start'.

To be pedantic, I thought I'd just point out that witches were not burned at the stake in England - I'm not so certain about Scotland, Wales or Ireland - hung or drowned, yes. Only heretics or Catholics (depending on who was on the throne at the time) got burned. In general though, I agree with your point about medical technology.

To Cathy Halford - Data and/or batteries? In a stocking - *just* a stocking? Hmmml... As for me... a certain Klingon would be nice, but I'm not certain Tony (the husband) would take too kindly to finding him at the bottom of the bed - never mind how Santa got him down the chimney! But, I'd have so much fun unwrapping... Cackle, cackle!

To Heather Gibson - like you, I was really surprised to see the rooms where Classic Trek was being shown empty (or nearly so) for most of the time. I imagine people wanted to see 4th Season T.N.G. as it's still uncertain whether the Beeb has deigned to purchase it. Does anybody know different yet?

To Helen White - are head transplants more feasible? I sincerely doubt it. Again, there is all that nervous tissue to be restructured. Nerves cannot regrow, and there are other difficulties such as sustaining sufficient oxygen to the brain - if you cut the carotid artery you die quickly, not to mention the spinal column etc. And if a person is dead, how does keeping a head respirated retain the person's personality? I know I'm wandering into the realms of what life is and so on, but this is one of the reasons I find cryogenic suspension (today) so unbelievable.

Oh, do you think you could let me have the 'lowdown' on Klingon 'love-making', please?

To Cynthia Philippi - what an extremely generous offer. But are you certain your home could survive the sudden influx of 800-900 S.T. fans? I'm packing my case now before you change your mind.

To Cath Russell - Patrick Stewart is a very fine actor indeed, and it's not

surprising T.N.G. doesn't stretch him. He has come, after all, from a Classical background, and that is the true testing ground for any actor worth their mettle. And he is, I concur, a very attractive man; bald, middle-aged or otherwise.

To Jacqueline Comben - why were the agents contacted by con committees? Is it a matter of protocol? As you pointed out, British cons are charitable events, and as such I don't see why any of the cast(s) shouldn't be more than pleased to attend - particularly if asked in the manner you describe.

To finish, how I do identify with those articles by Sharon Holmes and Maggy. Daydreaming is what I do all day (and night) long while I'm looking after the anklebiters, cleaning, washing etc. etc.. And my friends (who go glassy eyed from my eulogising) have given up on my sanity long ago.

But do you know, the best thing was finding a whole bunch of fellow fans to interact with, none of whom think my 'obsession' is wierd, or - 'Ho! Ho! You don't watch that rubbish, do you?' - funny.

Before I hop off, can anybody tell me where I can get a pattern for a T.N.G. uniform or Troi type dress?

Wynne Jones - Ammanford, Dyfed

In the episode 'The City on the Edge of Forever', since McCoy jumps through the Guardian and alters history so that the future is non-existent from WW2, how do Kirk, Spock, Uhura, Scott and the security men still exist in front of the Guardian?

Jean Sloan - Liverpool

I was so sorry to hear of Gene Roddenberry's death; I am shocked to hear that Paramount has dispersed his staff with what I consider indecent haste, not to mention callous disregard for his part in the ST phenomenon. It is as if they want to wipe away his influence on any aspect of production.

And what, I wonder, will be the consequences of their dismissal of Richard Arnold? Is research on ST background to maintain consistency between Original Trek and Next Gen to be a thing of the past? And what about Richard's role in providing an information link for the fans? If it weren't for the fans fighting for the Original series, it is unlikely that there would be any Next Gen. Richard Arnold, Susan Sacket and the rest had defined roles at Paramount; why should Gene's death change that? It seems to me that all concerned have excellent grounds for bringing charges of unfair dismissal.

[Janet: See Latest News.]

Sherry Golding - Orpington, Kent

There is a time when compliments should be made, and I feel mine is long overdue. IDIC is a very interesting n/l. When I read it I feel each writer's thoughts, their love and appreciation for that one special programme, its concept, etc, which Gene has given us. Death is always hard to accept for deep down life is special, important, and it is when someone we know, someone we care for, passes away that this truth hits us harder. Gene is dead but his work, his feelings, which he shared with us all, will exist for countless years, because we still exist, and believe so much in Gene's concept, that it is through us that his work will never go unwasted. He died knowing, and trusting, that his beliefs, etc., would live on through his fans, and friends. Keep up the n/l, and good work.

Angela Brown - Brampton, Cumbria

I have enjoyed the latest batch of Trek which has been shown on the TV. Unfortunately, I don't have access to the fourth and fifth seasons and remain at the mercy of the Beeb! I would have to say that my favourite character is Troi - I know many would disagree - and I'd love to see Marina Sirtis at a British Convention. Do you know of any she has been invited to and will be attending next year? I for one would love to see her. *[Janet: The only confirmed actor guest*

I've heard of for next year is George Takei at Contagion. However that does still leave the other conventions to confirm their guests.]

Bill Taylor - Kelty, Fife

While reading the latest S.T. novel "The Rift", on page 165, a piece of alien hardware was mentioned, ie. "The Illidium Pew-36 Explosive Space Modulator". If my memory serves me, in a Bugs Bunny cartoon, Bugs saved the Earth by stealing "The Illidium Pew-36 Explosive Space Modulator" from a Martian.

Does anyone know if there are plans to make a decent sized "Bird of Prey" model?

Mike Mullen - Headlingly, Leeds

To Eddie Yau - My favourite quote from TNG is in Skin of Evil. It goes "Death is that state of mind in which one exists only in the memory of others. No goodbyes, just good memories". It was used very well in last month's newsletter when describing the feeling one had when thinking of Gene's death. I like Deanna's character - it's a pity that the odious counselor scenes are snapped up by Whoopi Goldberg (no bad feeling intended to Whoopi - she's marvellous). Maybe the only way we will see her character develop is if we see her in dominant roles. It is interesting to see how she deals with command in 'Disaster' - an excellent episode.

To Kirstie Jordon - I believe Ensigns in 'Ensigns of Command' means the responsibility of command. I'm sure somebody else can explain it much better.

To Cathy Halford & others - My favourite Trek author at the moment is Peter David. He certainly knows his Trek and I love his humour. What makes his books is the continuous references to the past which give them continuity with the series to help build a more complete picture. I agree he draws a picture in your mind - I think he could write a great TNG script.

To Margaret Rainey - the CIC video stickers. I, like you and many other people, have what seems like millions of stickers and have the merchandise. I now use them as decoration on folders etc, and also stick them in the most obscure places around the office and at home, so Star Trek can be found anywhere. Has anybody got a more productive suggestion with what to do with these stickers?

My least liked TNG episodes (of 1st/2nd season) are: Code of Honour, Justice, The Royale, and Man Trap. My favourite episode is Family (sorry to disagree with you, Nina - I'll have to make you sit through it again!!!).

To Sue Embury - I agree that Worf's character has developed tremendously in the stories that are especially about him, but all too often in other episodes it seems that the writers fall back on giving the line 'It's unknown, let's shoot it', which makes his character regress, as if he has not learnt anything from his Human upbringing. In episodes like Reunion and Redemption 1 & 2 it is obvious he takes note of his Human emotion - ie not killing the kid at the end of Redemption 2, as the episode says, "It's the Klingon way. Yes, but is not my way".

To John Mullen - are you a relation? I was born in Airdrie.

To round off, a couple of points to throw out to you. To those who originally did not like TNG but now do - when did you realise your attitude had changed and for what reasons? The second one; Paramount are already talking about doing ST:TG (Star Trek: The Third Generation) when TNG reaches the big screen. If this new series gets off the ground will it be met with the same pessimism, or because it's been done once with TNG will it have a much smoother ride to the acceptance of fans?

Russell Witheyman - Crawley, Sussex

I was watching a couple of early 1st season TNG the other day and it occurred to me just how tacky some of the things in it were. Firstly those awful jumpsuits (I'm surprised they lasted until season 3) they're just soooo baad! They all

looked like they had just been out with Annika Rice. Secondly, could anybody tell me why all the Admiral uniforms looked badly designed? The patterns were hilarious, and the actors playing the Admirals were usually fat anyway so those jumpsuits really showed off their figure!! Lastly, I didn't like Michael Dorn's make up... in the first season if you look at him then and look at him now he looks much better now with that longer hair and accentuated make-up. I think the show has definitely developed well now it's into fifth season.

I was also pleasantly surprised the other day when I went into W H Smith and saw the 1st two volumes of the Star Trek animateds. These were of course filed in the children's section (typical!!) and it was only because I looked at the section that I noticed them. When are these shops going to realise that Star Trek isn't just for children? I know that the cartoons were originally made for children but they could have put them next to the Next Generation videos or Classic Trek vids.

Heien White - Bracknell, Berks

First of all, a GIANT grovel, to Anne T Robertson, whose name I missed off the anonymous quiz in n/l 19 (page 63). I put it on the grid, but of course Janet trims those off to set them up for printing. Sorry, Anne.

I 'enjoyed' the tribute-to-Gene bits. What a huge thing Star Trek has become.

I saw the National Enquirer cover about Gene 'hating' Kirk, found the article, and dismissed it as a load of (very unprintable adjectives and nouns!) How do they get away with printing such a lot of twaddle?

To Kirstie Jordan - Re your comment on the episode 'Ensigns of Command': the word 'ensigns' here isn't a rank, it means duties/obligations. (This info is from Richard Arnold.)

To Allison Blandford - re travelling to cons. I live in Bracknell, which is near Windsor and Slough, ie pretty close to London, and so far I've been to Liverpool, Coventry, Leicester, Blackpool, Birmingham, and even Florida for cons. Not counting Florida, the longest journey-time to one of these was four hours (to Blackpool), closely followed by about three hours to Liverpool. When you consider the size of, for example, the USA or Australia, we are actually very lucky! Also, having cons held (roughly) in the Midlands is as fair as you can get, really; if all the cons were held in London, all the people up North would, understandably, feel rather left out. Anyway, for my money, even the ten-hour-long, very expensive (over £400, ugh) journey to Florida was well worth it for the holiday that we had when we got there, and after that, £20-odd for petrol is nothing!

To Lesley Hatch - re females being referred to as 'Mr'; I haven't particularly noticed this in any episode, but in TWOK Spock refers to Saavik as, 'Mr Saavik'. This sounds fine to me, but on the other hand, 'Mr Uhura' doesn't sound right at all!

To Heather Gibson - re Original Trek at cons. I think that more people will be in the TNG rooms until we run out of 'new' TNG; I never bother to watch any episodes at cons these days unless it's a new one, partly because I have most of them on video, but mainly because I'm too busy keeping up with friends and attending event-type things.

To Matthew Conway - I was highly sceptical when I watched Redemption, but I ended up impressed with the way that the story had been worked out. Mind you, I still think that Denise Crosby would have been better coming back as an alien-type person with a bit more make-up; she looks too much like herself, so to speak.

To Pam Baddeley, Liz Caldwell et al - I love The Royale, it's one of my favourite TNG episodes. Part of the reason is that it's so surreal; it's very dream-like.

To Sheila Clark - How I agree with you about Trek novels without 'our' crew in

them; I find it most annoying to pick up a 'Trek' book and then find that I don't recognise any of the characters.

Also, re brain transplants - I once read an awful book, the plot of which was that a small woman had got a bit squished, and her head was transplanted onto a large and bosomy woman's body. I can't remember what happened now, other than the fact that they all lived happily ever after (except the donor of the body, of course.)

To Ann Peters - How do you know that a rock isn't alive? Or a star, come to that? What about the Horta, or the alien thingy in Home Soil? Certainly a rock/star/planet doesn't seem to be alive, but how can we tell for sure? Bats' voices are too high for us to hear, elephants' too low, for instance; there must be an enormous amount that we are unaware of without realising it.

Carol Kean - Dundee

I recently bought two ST:TNG season 3 tapes. I was especially looking forward to seeing the episodes The High Ground and Deja Q.

However, when I played the tapes I was very disappointed to hear how quickly the actors were speaking. I later read an article in TV zone No 25 that many other fans have noticed this as well.

Apparently the dialogue has been speeded up because CIC is using a new process of transferring the film to video in an effort to improve picture quality.

I have already bought all the classic episodes, the films and some of the TNG videos and I was quite happy with the picture quality. Now, however, everyone is talking at top speed and poor Data sounds as if he is still playing host to the Nanites.

This has put me off buying any more season 3 tapes, which is a great pity because it looks like we are in store for some cracking episodes.

Lastly, I am one of the minority who enjoyed The Royale. As usual, Data (my favourite) steals the show.

Christine Snow - Worthing

This was delayed because I was so upset over Mr. Roddenberry's death. My sympathies to his family, friends and fans.

Hi. N/L 18 was really good, especially with the extra 25th Anniversary Special. We celebrated here on the Sussex coast on the actual day, with a small party.

Thanks to all who commented on my article on "City..." There is an alternative possibility involving our reality and the Star Trek universe, but I've not thought it out fully yet.

To Janice White - my sympathies. I'm thinking of changing my name for similar reasons. Zarabeth comes to mind, but Spock had to leave her behind. Maybe I'll adopt my mother's name - Edith. I know she had to die - Miss Keeler, that is - but it was for a worthy cause, and I get to be Jim's boat (read Battleship by Diane Carey).

Have you noticed how much Star Trek is part of everybody's life? Even natural history programmes are in on the act - Sea Trek. They even wear lookalike space suits, try to communicate with alien lifeforms and have a pseudo shuttle.

To Karen Davies - when Data is damaged he leaks, when he is dismantled he does not. Considering how well Data has been designed and constructed, his hydraulic and other fluid systems must have a failsafe mechanism. Maybe it's like the semi-lunar valves in our arteries. However it worked, Riker knew about it, since he would never knowingly unnecessarily hurt Data. He removed Data's arm

dramatically because he was doing his job as a prosecutor, but he did it with informed care because he believed Data was not just a machine - not a toaster!

Hi, Russell - my least favourite episodes so far are all those with Deanna's mother, including the one we saw at the con, and Neutral Zone. (This doesn't contribute much to the series other than announcing that the Romulans are back, and presumably the devastating unknown aliens are the Borg. I'll have to re-watch this to see if I've missed the point of the episode). I like TNG a lot, but I still like Classic Trek better. However, having read Peter David's *Q in Law*, perhaps I'll start liking Mrs. Troi more. She was certainly a good read in that book - 9 out of 10.

Thank you, Editor, for showing the source of the quote "The most unkindest cut..." It just goes to show that even the Great Bard (not Bird) got it a shade wrong. But that's how they spoke English then. Language develops and evolves with use over time. Rules of grammar and meanings we have now will not last indefinitely. This also includes accents. Originally the Australians had a predominantly Cockney accent and the first Mayflower settlers to the USA had a West Country lilt. So I agree with Richard Fuller that Scotty's accent is O.K. Going back to the Bard - he couldn't spell either, but then no-one could until the dictionary was invented. Thankfully mid-century BBC English didn't become compulsory like spelling did after the dictionary. There are some aspects of life today where IDIC is in evidence.

To Kirstie Jordan - Wes is cute and you are insane. Take 2 ST episodes per day till cured. Nobody, but nobody looks like a very young William Shatner except a very young James T Kirk. He can make my toes curl, but Wes just reminds me I'm a mother.

And Theloniust! Where in the Galaxy did they get that from? Makes you glad that Picard has no middle name... *[Theloniust Monk was a noted jazz musician.]*

I have received a letter from a science fiction/fantasy literary group in Romania, asking for copies of any science fiction or fantasy books. From their second letter I'm sure they are genuine, and it's obvious they don't know about Star Trek (yet) but would like to know more. I'm really puzzled as to how they got my name and address, and am awaiting an answer to this. Has anyone else had such a letter? Does anyone want to know more? Is anyone interested in following it up? If so please write to me at 32 Orchard Ave, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7PY.

[Ed - Carla Salveta got a letter from a similar group in Russia which she passed on to us. Sheila has written them a couple of times with (of course) some info on Star Trek. They're interested in printing (translated into Russian) fan-written SF. Carla however knew how this group got her address - it was courtesy of something that was printed at least three years ago. Anyone who would like to be put in touch with the Russian group, write to Sheila.]

Elena Bond - London

On the 'would we think so much about Data were he not humanoid' debate, why stop at R2D2? The Blake's Seven computers, Zen, Orac and Slave, were certainly not humanoid, but my goodness, did not this trio have personalities, not to mention greater than Human capabilities. Zen and Orac were telepathic for a start and could read minds in a way Deanna Troi cannot, let alone Data. It really is a case of push over Data and the Enterprise computer in comparison to Orac and Zen.

A friend of mine recently summed up Data's appeal very succinctly in that it's not so much that he's humanoid and played by a Human actor but that he's so innocent, almost childlike. And, at least as far as she was concerned, isn't it fun to fantasize about how one could corrupt him! Personally I'm not interested in corrupting Data, but I can think of one computer programmer who would the moment he got his hands on Dr. Moonian Singh's creation. As far as I'm concerned, I like my computers worldly, sophisticated and most exciting of all - box-shaped.

Lastly, what would Avon think/make of Data? Perhaps readers might like to speculate on this and other ways of making Data more Orac-like.

To Heather Gibson - yes, Kwadrak and Riker indeed! She of the big seductive brown eyes and soft, velvet leathery skin... It's almost as exciting as box-shaped computers.

Cathy Halford - London

Hello all in IDIC. I'm very impressed with the way the committee got N/L 19 out so snappily. There aren't many clubs which don't keep fans waiting an unscheduled month or two between newsletters - well done and thanks.

To Miss E D Davies - you mention that you're 'nervous' about not receiving zine orders placed abroad; I've had no problems ordering from Orion Press in the USA (3211 Saddleleaf Drive, Albany, Georgia 31707, USA). They've always sent zines promptly by airmail and I've never lost any cash that I've sent, which seems to be the least hassled method of payment.

To Allison Blandford - didn't you make Ne'A'Driar this summer? It was just around the corner from us (Shepperton) and very successful. As for travelling north to cons, I'll use any excuse to get back to civilisation for a day or two, and Star Trek has to be a good one.

To Martin Stahl - I sympathise with the printer problems you had regarding the "E" sign. I had trouble with the same character, and had to interrupt a letter to IDIC for nearly an hour while I delved into my PC's AUTOEXEC.BAT, and played with the printer's pin switches. Both machines thought they were in America. Can't wait till we have to start adjusting between Terran, Vulcan and Klingonase.

To Jeff Martin/Janet Quarton - I think there was a precise and valid point in Jeff's letter which discussed actor-fans "extremes of adulation" (N/L 18 p41) - that just as constructive criticism is characterised by the critic arguing or justifying a point, so should deserved praise be presented with an equal level of reasoning. I think the issue here is whether we see a fan club newsletter as a forum for critical reviewing or for the idolising Janet mentions. I couldn't read it if it were exclusively either of these. It's a cross between both, which naturally gives rise to this dialectic.

Maggie Bradfield - Malton, N. Yorks

To Miss E D Davies - when it comes to ordering from the States I must admit I was nervous about doing this too. However, recently I received a flyer for an American zine that was rather enticing, so after a lot of thinking about it I decided to take the plunge and have a go. The first thing is the money, which has to be in dollars - I broke all the rules here and sent cash. Now, you are NOT supposed to do this (most people recommend money orders or bank drafts) but it does happen to be the cheapest way when small amounts are involved and my local bank was very helpful. Anyway I sent the order and to my surprise and delight the zine arrived in just over three weeks - not bad! To sum up - if you really want the zine and you can afford to possibly lose the money and you don't mind waiting - then go ahead. There is a certain amount of risk but then that is true of life in general - you take considerably more risk in trying to cross the average road or trying to get somewhere on time via British Rail. (Actually that isn't so much a risk as a near impossibility.)

To Kirstie Jordan - I haven't figured out the title of Ensigns of Command either! I think it refers to Data having to learn how to deal with command situations on his own, but I can't figure out why they used ENSIGNS.

To Denise Sparrow - when I first got started in fandom earlier this year I didn't like the letters page either. Now that I know more about things and understand the references better the letters have become much more interesting reading; healthy debate is great fun, and it's always nice to find other people with the same opinion as myself!

Incidentally, my favourite TNG characters are Picard, Troi and Data, but I do have a sneaking sympathy for poor old, much maligned Wesley Crusher! After all, he's a lot more human than some of the real-life child geniuses I've seen on TV, and he does improve after the first few episodes.

Oh, and contrary to popular opinion I'd just like to say that I quite enjoyed Up The Long Ladder. It did have some lovely comic moments. I will admit though that Shades of Grey was rather a cheat: it could have been so much improved by using flashbacks that were not merely scenes cut from previous episodes. I know the official explanation for this - perhaps they simply shouldn't have bothered.

By the way, I recently spotted a little "error" in The Bonding where Picard is talking to Worf. Normally Patrick Stewart uses the American pronunciation of Lieutenant, but in one scene of this episode, in the turbolift, his British pronunciation slipped in. Did anyone else notice? I'll be listening now to see if he does it in any other episodes!

Oops, almost forgot my favourite TNG quote for Eddie Yau. I reckon Worf gets some of the best one-liners. My favourite so far is his answer to Danilo O'Dell in Up The Long Ladder when Danilo asks what would have happened if he'd been directly under the flame extinguisher in the Enterprise's cargo hold; "You would have been standing in the fire."

Lloyd Lewis - Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan

I'm sure that everyone who reads this feels that the moment of receiving news of Gene's death will be forever engraved on our memories. I was in the act of boarding the Social Services bus that takes me to my computer course. A friend told me as I was getting on. At first I thought it was a wind-up. It's now up to us, in every way that we can, to ensure that Gene's vision of a caring, united, worldwide society comes about.

I loved the picture of John de Lancie, a family favourite since his kindness to my son Cai at Frontiers in Blackpool.

Did somebody say there was a Roddenberry link with Quantum Leap as I'm unable to find anything in the credits at a cursory glance? *[Janet: not as far as I know.]*

Once again the BBC screw us all up by messing about with the time slot. Half past suffering five - they'll be having Edd the Duck introduce it next week!

On the subject of kiddies at cons; why volunteers? I'm sure that once parents knew that a creche would be available it could at least be self financing and perhaps even profitable. People do make money at it, you know - yes, and childminding.

Keren Breen and I have been discussing getting a group together for the occasional drink in the South Wales coastal area (Cardiff/Bridgend/Port Talbot/Swansea/Neath and all-points-in-between sort of thingy. Anyone interested please write to myself or Keren.

I didn't know about JSTV on Sky, would anyone out there be able, and willing, to tape Japanese programmes, the simpler the better, for me on a rotating video basis? VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

Is anyone out there unfortunate enough to remember That's Life having a competition to find the most strangely shaped vegetable? The winner of the competition appears to be hosting a daytime TV programme called Going for Gold. I watched it this week (I am recovering from a brain operation after all) and it left me wondering about two of the answers given to questions:

1. Where does the word robot come from? Czechoslovakian.
(I thought it was Mr. Isaac Asimov)
2. In Greek mythology, who created Mankind? Prometheus.
(I thought that he'd given us fire, to his everlasting damnation.)

John Stevenson & Helen White - re. brain transplants. Would the patient wake up with a new brain or with a new body? I had to have a fairly large amount of brain tissue removed. Apart from some memory loss and retention I'm coping well enough (but I've just admitted to watching daytime television).

Lesley Thompson - would you please lend me The Far Arena. I'll pay postage both ways, naturally. Karen Savage & Barbara Ellams - thank you both for your kind offers.

Nina Lynch - I've ST 1, 2, 4, 9 & 12, Log 2 and 8 ST novels in hardback, and I'm very keen to add more. I've got everything else in paperback. It's through book collecting that I got back into ST. So if after having read your hardback Blish you'd like to part with it at a profit please write to me 17 Alma Terrace, Abercynffig, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan CF32 9AL.

Steve Davies - Huntingdon

A belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. Star Trek is 26 years old this year and I for one am anxiously awaiting the release of a particular movie in February. Each Wednesday night has become a DO NOT DISTURB night as TNG goes from strength to strength, and it's all the better for me now that I know I've converted yet one more to the ranks of Trekdom. My girl friend Sandra always wondered what possessed me to shut myself away for three-quarters of a hour every mid-week and spend hundreds of pounds on videos of some old 1960s TV series. She used to prefer a good slice of 'real life' to all this science fiction rubbish!!! But then during one of our frequent Sunday afternoons I decided to take a gamble! Using the guest appearance of Joan Collins to capture Sandra's curiosity, I slipped City on the Edge of Forever into the machine... and waited...

As the end credits flashed too-fast across the screen I said, "Well?" She loved every minute of it!

Not wanting to dampen her enthusiasm for this new-found wonder I wracked my brain for the next few episodes to show. The Trouble With Tribbles, The Paradise Syndrome, and Operation Annihilate were all excellently received.

The following weekend we sat down again to an afternoon of box-watching and *this* time I decided to play my trump card - Space Seed! She loved that too, and for the rest of the day The Wrath of Khan, The Search for Spock and The Voyage Home echoed around the room with barely time for a tea-break and a bite to eat in between. Can you remember what it was like seeing all that for the first time? Spock's death, the destruction of the Enterprise and the unveiling of 1701A? I expected her to lose interest - but no, her eyes never left the screen.

We saw The Final Frontier the following weekend to the same enthusiastic reception and today, whether we're together or apart our eyes are glued to BBC2 on Wednesday evening! Star Trek is just one more thing we have in common and I wouldn't have it any other way. We were both upset by Gene's death even though several months ago she didn't even know who Gene Roddenberry was!

I can smile to myself now in the knowledge that next February I won't be taking Sandra to see The Undiscovered Country unwillingly - I'll be taking her because she *wants* to go. From all the bits and pieces in the IDIC newsletter about ST VI, she can hardly wait... I know how she feels!

Lorraine Ware - Blackpool

Firstly, I would like to extend my respects to Gene Roddenberry's friends, family and colleagues, and anyone who knew him, on his passing away. May he rest in peace always. I hope that those left behind will stay true to his world of Star Trek and never let it die.

To carry on, I write to thank you all at IDIC for the enjoyable magazine you collate for us. I enjoy reading other people's comments, especially the updates. I for one love both Star Trek worlds and find the natural progression from one to

the other very good. The characterisations are great, the storylines are usually very good. You find within people that you would really like to know, good inter-relations, humour and most of all the constant hope and faith in the world to come.

One comment I would like to make is that the berating of the actors and characters by some people is so negative - only positive, helpful criticism is worth giving. I am prejudiced, though - as I said I like them all and take them as they are meant to be - good, clean entertainment with a moral to tell us and usually a happy ending. Here I think of the sad ending in *Skin of Evil*, in which Tasha died, but even this was done in a lovely way. I must admit I am 'looking forward to seeing the episode Yesterday's Enterprise that I've read so much about. I've often thought why don't the writers have both crews, 'original' and 'new', meet via a time warp somehow. And lo and behold I have just read in *Film Review* magazine (Dec '91 issue) that the go-ahead for a 7th film has just been given, and will have the 'originals' going forward in a time warp to meet the 'next generation'. Is this true? If it is, I can't wait!

John Marshall - Portsmouth

It was with great sadness that I learned that the Great Bird of the Galaxy had died. I heard it from my mother, who said that the local paper had phoned and said they had got in contact with 2 Star Trek clubs asking for names of local members and my name popped up in both. They wanted to interview me and ask my opinions and comments. Unfortunately I had just finished a 12-hour nightshift and my mother didn't want to wake me up. (You can imagine how angry I was.)

I'd like to extend my deepest sympathy to Gene's family and friends and I would just like to say this: Gene is now in a perfect world up there - no hate or anything. So don't be sad, just look on the bright side of life; he's not in any pain or suffering any more.

What I'm about to write is controversial and I'm bound to get a lot of stick, but it's what I think and I always speak my mind, no matter what the situation.

To me, Gene is Star Trek and no-one else can take his place; therefore, although there is talk of another film if *The Undiscovered Country* is successful and a *Next Generation* film is also being planned, I think they both should be cancelled.

If there is an idea on paper written by Gene himself, then certainly they should be made into a film in honour of the great man himself, but if not I think it would be wrong for anyone else to step into his shoes. I know there are other talented writers, like D C Fontana, who have penned many great Star Trek episodes, but to me it wouldn't be the same.

Gene's love for the Star Trek universe showed in the way he persevered - like in the sixties when the show was nearly cancelled, he and many fans fought and won; in the seventies he got everyone back together to make the cartoons and films; and in the eighties - *The Next Generation*. Many fans, including myself, weren't happy with the idea - new characters, a new ship, set in the future (70 years after Captain Kirk and his crew). If anyone else had done it it would have been a flop, but because of Gene many people regard it as better than the original series; not many restrictions, from drugs to sex, the audience expected it. Name me one programme you can think of where drugs or sex doesn't rear its ugly head.

Gene's dream was simple - to make a perfect world where there was no war, poverty, hate. Everyone is equal, no matter what the colour of their skin, race, creed, religion. Not only a perfect world, but a perfect universe.

Like I said, I speak my mind. I can also take criticism. So if you agree or disagree, please let me know.

Keren Breen - Neath, West Glamorgan

To Pam Baddeley - I have to agree with you about Up the Long Ladder. I was, quite frankly, rather shocked at such a one-sided presentation of the issues; as though we should all agree that the right to choose takes precedence over the right to life. I don't think it's quite as clear-cut as that, and I would have liked to see another character putting the other viewpoint. I'm glad someone else thought Riker was a bit over-the-top - I was afraid I was being too sensitive.

To Ray Dowsett and Lloyd Lewis - can we please stop the 'my navy is better than your navy' argument now, please? Thank you.

To Margaret Rainey and anyone else who feels kids and cons don't mix - it is my experience as a mother, teacher of young children and (of late) lecturer to NNEB students, that children who are occupied with interesting, absorbing activities that are appropriate to their age and stage of development, are no trouble at all.

Unfortunately, as far as I can tell from reports, such activities seem thin on the ground at cons, and of course the kids get fed up unless someone is prepared to devote a lot of time and attention to them. I am not going to a con until my sons are both leave-able, as I want to enjoy myself when I do go; if I take the boys either I or they will have a miserable time. Also I love them dearly, but I can quite see that other people won't necessarily share my opinion. I work with other people's little darlings, remember! (And I am NOT volunteering to run a creche at the next con...!)

I enjoyed Sharon Holmes's The Trouble With Being a Trekker - it rang a few bells! I don't have a cat called Captain Kirk, but I do have a car called Chekov (no Lada jokes in my hearing, please!) Some people think it's named after the playwright - but we know better...

Marion Pritchard - Plymouth

With great sadness we heard the news that the Great Bird of the Galaxy had died. It is difficult to say anything really about such a loss, and a lot has been said and written already. I would like to add one thing, though. Gene Roddenberry has given us all a lot. But also we gave him something in return: the knowledge that he was not alone with his vision, and that his ideas were and still are shared by a great number of people in the whole world. I am sure that this knowledge was a great and highly appreciated gift. So, Gene, live long and prosper - and you will with all of us.

Please, please please do not reduce the postbag. That is the section I enjoy reading most. Views, ideas, controversy, discussion... There are not many newsletters like this one.

Quite a while ago I voiced my doubts about TNG, but now that I have seen seasons 1 to 4 (courtesy of friends) I have been completely won over. The characters have taken shape, even the one I was most doubtful about - Data. My favourite character is and always will be (who else?) Spock. TNG wanted to break with the Classic series, and it seems that some of the characters were created as exact opposites to their predecessors, eg Data. (Data fans, don't bite my head off, please, I am one of you too now!) Spock has a Human half and he spent most of his life trying to negate that and come as close as possible to being a 'walking computer', whereas Data is a very sophisticated 'walking computer' and he is spending his life trying to come as closely as possible to being Human. Now Data is not Human and never will be, but there are always little things that make you wonder... which makes this character such a challenge to viewers. My favourite character of TNG without any doubt is Worf; Klingons have never looked better...

To Gloria Fry - in one of the last newsletters you wrote about Dwellers in the Crucible (and obviously, when I wanted to re-read it, I couldn't find it). I have all ST (classic) books in my collection, and that one is in the group of novels I liked least. I think it was the idea of peace in the Federation being maintained by having hostages of each member planet to make sure that peace would not be

broken. This idea simply didn't make sense to me because it doesn't go along with what the Federation should stand for. This idea sounds more like blackmail, and not a group of planets working together by choice. There are some interesting bits in that book, but the whole together just didn't do it for me.

To Martin Stahl - I noticed you are from Marktheidenfeld. That is the place where I spent a miserable 6 months doing my teacher's training at the local Realschule. Has the place improved? Write to me some time. Address is in the back with Armadacon. Maybe we will meet at a future Nuernberg-con??

To Eddie Yau - I totally agree with you, as I also prefer Dr. Pulaski to Dr. Crusher. Dr. Pulaski is a better counterpart to Picard, straightforward, speaking her mind and adding a bit of spice to discussions on the Enterprise. I also think that Troi is underused. She could do a lot more, but then you can't really take the good lines away from the 'big ones', can you?

To all the people I know and to those I don't know (yet) have a good 1992, and live long and prosper. See you at the dealers' room at T'Kon, yes, with the badge machine. North Wing Survivors rule, O.K.?

Matthew Conway - Lambourn, Berks

Re Gene Roddenberry's death - undoubtedly this was a sad loss, if only because anyone's death is a cause for mourning (with notable exceptions). However, as a long-time Trek watcher who only became a fan in the late 1980s, and who, as such, is perhaps not as personally attached to Gene as others, I find talk of his 'profound influence' just a little too heavy-handed. His was certainly the creative spark that ignited the series in the first place, but his role gradually diminished to little more than a figurehead; little or no influence over season 3 of ST; little or no influence over STs II - VI; and certainly little or no influence during ST:TNG's run, most decisions being handled by Executive Producer Rick Berman. Don't get me wrong - Roddenberry was an inspiration to humanity as a while, but he was just one man. *[Janet: Gene was many things but never a figurehead. Although he was only the creative consultant for STs II - VI he did read and make comments on all the scripts and I believe changes were made because of what he had to say. The writers and producers knew that they would have to stick close to Gene's Star Trek as they didn't want him taking his name off the films - which he promised the fans he would do if he found them unacceptable. Gene was also responsible for making Paramount change their mind about making the ST Academy film with a new cast.]*

ST:TNG was very much Gene's baby and he insisted that it developed the way he wanted it, often rewriting scripts in the early days. Most of the writers and production staff who left the series did so because they wanted to do Star Trek their way while Gene insisted they do it his way. Latterly he wasn't as actively involved in the production of the series but he had formed a production staff who he could trust to produce the series the way he wanted. He still saw all the scripts and had the final say, and we hear he saw and approved ST VI just before his death. I just hope that with Gene's death the production staff will remain loyal to that trust.]

Re worst ST:TNG episodes - The Royale is definitely among these. Okay, so Data got a couple of funny lines, but the whole story worked about as well as the supposed Hotel Royale novel itself. Other contenders must include Justice, Home Soil, Samaritan Snare and Shades of Grey. Thank God the third season's finally arrived.

Re favourite quotes - Worf has these down to a fine art, with such classics as "Nice planet", "I am not a merry man" and "Nice legs - for a Human".

Re Picard as Wesley's father - this sort of speculation can only be the product of an overfertile imagination. Wesley is Jack Crusher's son, if only because there's absolutely no evidence to the contrary. To refute Kirstie Jordan's suggestions; Picard took to Wesley so well because he's the son of one of his dearest friends and because the Traveller advised him to do so in Where No One Has

Gone Before; he was made an acting ensign because it's hard to learn about warp drive propulsion and the like unless you've got access to engineering staff and equipment; Picard and Beverly know each other so well because Jack Crusher was Picard's best friend (along with Walker Keel) and Beverly was Jack's wife; and why shouldn't the Captain and Doctor feel affection for each other - they're both single, serve aboard the same vessel and have a lot in common.

Re The Ensigns of Command - it was my opinion that these were Data (new to the task of command, vis-a-vis the colonists of Tau Cygni V) and Picard (new to seeking concessions from the Sheliak).

Re the term 'Mister' - in naval parlance, 'mister' is a form of address for subordinate or senior warrant officers regardless of their sex. Thus in STII:TWOK, Spock orders "Take the helm, Mr. Saavik."

Re Probe - this, and a number of other novels (including Irene Kress' The War Virus) may never see light of day because of new restrictions laid down by Paramount with regard to the handling of the ST universe. It is also rumoured that Peter David left DC's comic series because of excessive intervention from above, so I wouldn't advise Miss E Davies to hold her breath while waiting for Probe to appear.

Re American English - there's a very good reason why ST characters speak American English; ST is an American series made primarily for the American market. Little surprise, therefore, that Patrick Stewart has had to modify his language somewhat to be intelligible to the vast majority of his audience. Arguments about the globalisation of language by the 24th century are all well and good, but as long as ST remains an American product its characters will continue to speak American English. It's as simple as that.

Re Spock's rank - Spock has stated on any number of occasions that Kirk is more suited to command than he (eg his willingness to cede command of the Enterprise in TWOK) and that, in fact, command simply does not appeal to him. Intelligence has nothing to do with the argument, simply because, if it did, I see no reason why Spock wouldn't have been made an admiral years before, if not Admiral of the Fleet itself. Indeed, Starfleet's senior ranks would be dominated by Vulcans if the criteria were application and intelligence alone, so something else is plainly at work here and, in the absence of a discriminatory policy on the part of Starfleet, this can surely only be explained by an unwillingness on the part of Vulcans to seek command positions.

Edward Woo - Liver Bird City

To Sherry Golding - apart from stories about Chekov and Sulu, the other less well known characters should be included, for instance, Uhura, Chapel, Rand and Scotty. There are plenty of stories about the Big Three. The others are also part of Star Trek and we should not neglect them - say Sulu in command, with Chekov as the Science Officer, Chapel as the ship's Doctor and Rand as Chief Petty Officer; Uhura heading the landing parties would be ideal and Scotty could be training new engineers.

To Martin Stahl - I do not agree with your comments that Troi would be ineffective as a Federation Commander. She is a member of Starfleet and would do her best, even fighting with Romulans if the ship was in danger. In an emergency, her rank is Commander despite not being in the chain of command. Do you remember that Dr. Crusher was in command of the bridge in one episode, till Data got back to relieve her? Give the Counselor a break. I am eagerly looking forward to the episode Disaster, as it will flesh out her character more and let us see how she can handle a crisis.

To Pam Baddeley & Lisa Dearnley-Davison - at last the producers of TNG have admitted they do have a problem with what to do with Troi. Their admission that Troi and Guinan are interchangeable is very unsatisfactory. From the very beginning I could see Guinan muscling in on Counselor Troi's territory. I think in

other episodic TV the lack of availability of an actor or actress would rule them out of the storyline; has TNG made an exception to this? If you think about it, ST women have always had a bad deal. In The Cage, a female Number One was looked at with horror. Yeoman Rand was lost to allow Kirk to be more friendly with alien women. Jhura never had enough lines (apart from Hailing frequencies open).

In TNG, the dynamic Tasha Yar was lost, due, I think, to the lack of sufficient storylines for the character. The Troi/Riker relationship was ignored to let Riker be friendly with other women (like Kirk). Would the character of Guinan have appeared if Tasha Yar had stayed on the Enterprise? I think not.

To Matthew Conway - like you, I liked Denise Crosby as Security Chief Yar, and like many other fans was disappointed when she left. Now, with hindsight, it might have been a mistake for the actress to have gone, but as I said above she felt the character was not being developed. In a way, the two least featured characters (Rand and Yar) are the best remembered.

To Helen Cakebread - Dr. Crusher may be too soft at times, but Dr. Pulaski could be too hard as well. It's flaws and strengths in a character that makes believable TV. For example, Chris Cagney was strong on police work but had weaknesses in drink and family. Everyone is human, whether Terran or just another alien being.

To Elena Bond - in the first season, Riker without a beard made him look young and adventurous. With the beard he looks more thoughtful and seems to have a presence that is ready to take over the hot seat. In Mirror Mirror, Spock sporting a beard made him very distinguished - even McCoy liked it.

To Ann Peters - I found your reference to Data having shut-pretty-damned-quick valves amusing. No doubt if you pricked Data with a needle enough times he would leak all over the floor unless you poured some Rad-well into him to seal up the holes.

To Kirstie Jordan - Wesley as Picard's son is a possibility; however, I - like many other fans - would find it hard to swallow if the writers wrote that in the future. Picard could well be looking after Jack Crusher's son as a dying request as well as protecting L.. Crusher. That's why he is taking to Wesley, compared to his attitude towards other children on the Enterprise.

There are some similarities between Kirk, Riker and Picard, in that stories involving them with women who are crew have been curtailed. I do agree with you that there is unrevealed history between the Doctor and Picard.

Lindsay Shelton - I agree with you that Picard is a private individual, keeping things about himself quiet. He's interested in what others in the crew are doing, but rarely reveals anything of his life. He kept quiet at first about his headache in The Battle; he did not want the crew to know about his faulty heart; his failure to gain entry to Starfleet on his first try was only told to Wesley in confidence.

Command is lonely, and I can see that Riker could be headed for a similar path. The idea of having Riker or Picard married would be terrific now that families are aboard Starfleet vessels; but would personal feelings get in the way of professional ones in a crisis?

Rick Prestien - Dallas, Texas, USA

Hi, everyone! As a new American member of IDIC, I just wanted to congratulate you all on your great organization and newsletter. After only two issues, I'm already a big fan of the postbag section. I love the free interchange of ideas and opinions and the way members respond to one another, instead of the editor answering every question. My only complaint is that some of you do not reference the newsletter source of the original comment/opinion to which you are responding. That makes it difficult for the rest of us to follow the discussion or add our own

opinion. I also like the fact that both ST:TOS and ST:TNG are about equally liked and discussed by all. Keep it up! Here are a few comments/questions of my own - all sources are from N/L 19 unless otherwise noted.

To everyone - do I assume correctly that you are now seeing on BBC original episodes from the *third* season of ST:TNG while we in the States are seeing the *fifth* season? If this is correct, how is it that some members express opinions on episodes which you have not yet seen? Do all of you get express videotape copies of new episodes from here? I'm confused!

To Eddie Yau - do not be too quick to dismiss the command abilities of Deanna Troi. She may surprise you in The Disaster episode (5th season). I refer you to Helen White's article Midcon - Richard Arnold for an excellent plot outline of this episode. Please note that Helen says Troi is on the bridge (when the disaster strikes) and *therefore is in command* - Troi does not "get control of the Enterprise" in the way I think you imply. (Did everyone in the universe except me know that Deanna holds the rank of Lt. Commander?) And the title of the episode is *not* a judgement of her command abilities! In fact, The Disaster has quickly become one of my favourite episodes (in spite of the rather weak premise at the beginning) because of the excellent character development it provides for all the major players. The resolution of each of the sub-plots is well done and very revealing. I also like the unusual pairings created in this episode, and their isolation which makes them work together without outside help; imagine Worf and Keiko, Geordi and Beverly, and Picard and children! Trapped together!

To Karen Davies and Kirstie Jordan - I believe the speculation as to whether Wesley may be Picard's son derives from The Final Mission episode (3rd season, I think). In this episode, Picard almost dies and Wesley saves his life by figuring out how to obtain water on a desert planet and how to outwit an alien energy source guarding the water. The situation creates an intimacy between Picard and Wesley wherein Wesley confesses that all his achievements were "just to make him (Picard) proud". When they are rescued, Picard tells Wesley "I have always been proud of you." Adding some possible credence to the son theory is the fact that Jack Crusher and Jean-Luc Picard were best friends (from the Academy on) and that some attraction between Beverly and Jean-Luc undeniably exists. Detracting from the son theory, however, is the episode (I can't recall the title - Remembrance, perhaps?) in which Wesley reviews some old "home movies" and which clearly show Jack and Beverly as the proud parents of little Wesley. Also at the end of this episode Wesley confronts a holodeck image of his father, Jack Crusher, in a legacy created by Jack for Wesley when he reached a certain age. [Ed - I think the episode was *Family*] My personal opinion is that while I would like to believe that Wesley is Picard's son, my rational mind (what an inconvenience!) tells me he's not. By the way, in case you didn't know it, Wil Wheaton left the show after the 4th season. I really miss Wesley!

To Richard Fuller and Margaret Rainey - Please do not forget that all the movies are products of Hollywood. Scotty (James Doohan) has the perfect Scots accent to the *American ear*. Thus both of you are correct, from different points of view.

To everyone - finally for this postbag, I would like to quote from two obituaries I came upon recently in the December issue of Locus magazine. These professional writers say it so much better than I ever could.

"Both the Star Trek television shows emphasized Roddenberry's own idealism and belief in the future. And perhaps that's the real significance of Star Trek. Roddenberry kept alive the adventure roots of science fiction with his blustering Captain Kirk and endless parade of double-dyed villains, but he went much further than that, appealing to youthful generations with an idealism that few science fiction films could match and a future that was more inviting than forbidding. The future of a Blade Runner or an Alien or even a Star Wars might be entertaining from the safety of a theater seat, but of them all, Roddenberry's future was probably the one most people would choose to live in. Tens of millions of viewers and fans

will never forget him.

Frank M Robinson"

"Though Gene and I met only three or four times, we had a warm relationship for more than 20 years. Within minutes of hearing the Voice of America report of his death, I faxed the Star Trek office; 'few men have left a finer legacy. Enterprise will be cruising the Galaxy for centuries to come.' There is a sad irony in the fact that he entered The Undiscovered Country just when the eagerly-awaited movie of that name was about to be released. At a dark time in human history, Star Trek promoted the then unpopular ideals of tolerance for differing cultures, respect for life in all forms - without preaching, and always with a saving sense of humour. We can all rejoice that Gene achieved professional success and world respect. What must have given him even greater satisfaction is that he lived to see so many of his ideals triumphantly carried out.

Arthur C Clarke"

Jackie Marshall - Sheringham, Norfolk.

To Kirstie Jordan - You ask why Picard took to Wesley so well, considering his dislike of children, and put this forward as evidence that Wesley being Picard's son is a possibility. Well, I've always thought that, considering Wesley was Jack's son, Picard didn't take to him at all well! At least, not initially. If memory serves me correctly, he orders him off the Bridge in "Farpoint". As I recollect his change in attitude to Wesley stems from the encounter with the Traveller, who tells him that Wesley is special, and that this is why Picard makes him acting ensign. (If I've misremembered this, I apologize; I don't have those episodes to hand.

I took the 'Ensigns' in "Ensigns of Command" as meaning badges, which makes sense in the context. The episode is about Data discovering some of the responsibilities and problems posed for those who wear the badge of command.

I don't think everyone on board the Enterprise would necessarily know everyone else automatically, but they'd certainly know those in their section. E.g. Geordi would know everyone in engineering. There would also be friendship groups formed outside a working context, perhaps in the many societies on board the ship where the crew would have a chance to socialize with personnel. I'm not sure of the optimum number of people whose names/faces/details we can hold in our memory at any given time. The head of my Primary School knows (some to a greater degree) the majority of 450 children. It may, then, be possible that each individual on the Enterprise knows (to some degree or other) about half the ship's population.

To Cathy Halford, Lindsay Shelton, Elena Bond, Cath Russell et al: I'm one of those who *didn't* like the treatment of Picard in "Masks". I don't have the book to refer to right now but what I do have are my over-riding impressions of it, which are that while I found aspects of the book very enjoyable, the whole 'romantic encounter' was out of kilter and jarred. Finally, I'm afraid that Flaming Blade... er, Piercing Blade was not a character I could readily warm to as she came over to me as a cross between Red Sonja and a Mills & Boon heroine. But the main reason I cringed at her relationship with Picard was because of the way it was presented. For instance, as I remember it, no-one bats an eyelid when he takes a shine to her, which implies that this is nothing unusual. A certain amount of surprise on the part of Troi etc. might have removed the impression being given, namely, that this was normal behaviour for Picard. Yes, he does have deep emotions but Picard himself stated that, as a Captain, he cannot permit himself the *luxury* of having feelings. This fits in with "Captain's Holiday" where, because he's on vacation, he feels he *can* allow himself the luxury of a relationship with Vash. It also fits with "Q Pid" where her re-appearance embarrasses him and where it is revealed that he hasn't told anyone she even exists. He is, after all, 'a very private man'. And he has a keen awareness of what he considers is appropriate or inappropriate behaviour. I can't help feeling that feeling that in the situation delineated in "Masks", he would have considered a relationship with Piercing Blade to be inappropriate. Had the author established this and made something of the

unusual nature of what was taking place, I would have found it a whole lot easier to live with. A lightness of touch in the romantic scenes might also have softened the incongruities, but no. Instead we get her cooing and them both coming out (in apparent seriousness) with these cliched lines about them having so little time together - give me strength! Ladies, I agree entirely that Jean-Luc has a right to a sex-life (and anyone who doesn't had better leave the room during "Captain's Holiday" and "Q Pid"), but please could the authors take care to give the poor man a *believable* relationship?!

To Matthew Conway: Re Data's feelings, or lack of 'em! I hadn't heard Brent Spiner's observations on the character, and found them particularly interesting. I've come to believe that while Data doesn't have Human feelings, it may be possible for him to develop an equivalent. I see Data's problem as being an inferiority complex! He has convinced himself that he has no feelings, even though he demonstrably has some kind of attachment to people and places, so placed in a position where he feels himself to be lacking, he tries too hard to be Human and ends up as a bad imitation. (Witness his 'romantic' programme in "In Theory".) If only Data could accept that as he is unique, his feelings (for lack of a better word) will be unique too. Different to Human ones, but no less valid. "In Theory" fudged the issue. All it did was show us that Data isn't Human, which we knew anyway! A more fruitful way of tackling the subject would have been to let Data have a relationship with a woman mature enough to act as guide and mentor. That would have been a learning experience both for Data and for the audience.

To Sue Embury - "Riker's Brain" - I like it! Which was more than I did the story, apart from discovering that the Beeb had left in "Conspiracy's" deleted exploding head. I would actually have preferred to see it in "Conspiracy", though...

On the subject of ST warping one's view of the English language: I wince at that Insurance C. (or whatever it is) who use 'the best of both worlds' as their logo. It does *not* have the intended effect on me!

To Russell Witheyman - I would agree that overall TNG second season wasn't as strong as the first. The second season had some high points ("The Measure of a Man" especially) but also some really low ones. The first season struck me as far more even, with the occasional turkey.

Chris Brown - Spilsby, Lincolnshire

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who answered my questions from n/1 17.

To Lesley Hatch - (re female crew being referred to as MISTER) - I believe this is standard Starfleet protocol applying to all crew members. Saavik was referred to as Mister Saavik in STII by Kirk.

Re speed/friction - there was a wildlife program on the BBC recently in which it was stated that cockroaches' brains process information ten times faster than we humans do - therefore living in a completely different "time dimension" to us. In any case, with Kirk speeded up so much that he could not be seen, he would have aged and died before the end of the episode.

A few n/ls ago someone asked why there are always different Romulan Praetors in the novels. This is simple - because there are so many of them. In every level of Romulan society a senate is elected by the citizens or relevant people. These senators then elect themselves a Praetor, so the job would be similar to that of Prime Minister or chairperson. A Praetor may control anything from a city-state to an entire region of space, including all the warships in it.

Another old question was why did Kirstie Alley (who was perfect in the role) not play Saavik in STIII, and it is because she was committed to a new, doomed show called "Mannequin". She was offered twice her fee from STII but she out priced herself due to her other commitments.

Recently I have seen several clips of ST VI on TV and it most certainly looks impressive. I do however have a few misgivings at what I've seen. I feel a little disturbed that Kirk seems to have become extremely bitter towards the Klingons - a complete change from his attitude in STV. And why did they have to change the bridge? I really liked the STV bridge and feel that we didn't see enough of it. And I most certainly DO NOT like Lt. Valeris, which is quite strange as I usually like Kim Cattrail's work. Maybe it's because she wears a COMMANDERS rank pin, or maybe it's that Valeris isn't a Vulcan name, or that she is replacing the character of Saavik.

As you may have guessed, I am a fan of Saavik, and I'm also a fan of Chekov and I think he just isn't given enough to do. He's done just about every job on the bridge - navigator, security chief, communications, science, weapons and defence and he's also shown his command ability - First Officer of the Reliant and he handled the centre seat perfectly in STV.

One final point, did anyone else notice Picard's error at the end of 'The Enemy'? - He told the Romulan Commander that he would escort them to the Neutral Zone, and then warped off in the opposite direction (I take it that Super Wes wasn't piloting at this instant!)

Marcia Pecor - Staunton, Virginia, U.S.A.

I really appreciated the numerous tributes to Gene Roddenberry in n/1 19, especially those of Linda Wood and Christine Jones. Someone (not a fan) recently asked me what Star Trek (and subsequently Gene Roddenberry) was all about. All I could say was that Star Trek is a dream that outgrew itself and continues to grow. I don't think even Gene knew what boundaries it would attain when he first created his little "wagon train in the sky". I'm happy for him that he could live to see what his venture became after twenty-five years.

To Sherry Golding - I've noticed more than one reader asking someone else to write a story based on such-and-such an idea. As a writer, I found it difficult to pounce on someone else's brainchild and give it life. At best, a mutual collaboration would have to take place, where you and the writer could share ideas about the premise you have developed. I'd be interested to know how others who write feel about this, and whether you have received any replies to your request for Chekov stories.

To Kirstie Jordan - Re your reply to Bev Ambrose concerning a bum's life versus a senator's in the course of history. I've had many a discussion (some heated) with others concerning the altering and/or displacement of history by time-travellers. My theory is if I travel to the future, my involvement with events there becomes part of the fabric of the whole in that era. If, however, I travel to the past and interfere with its history, the fabric "ripples", if you will, to accommodate me. Such ripples, depending on whether it is the warp or woof of the fabric, may have far-reaching consequences, stretching for centuries into the future, or it may affect only one group of people, such as a family or tribe (such as extinct bands of Mexican Indians). Then again, it may only cause a little knot in the material that is easily overlooked. Hence, the "bum". Doubtful his death would adversely affect anyone, even his own child. If he had lived a good life until hard times came, his offspring would have benefitted from it. They would also have seen his degradation as he lost his job, his wealth, and his personal esteem. The damage to his children, if any, had already been done. His disappearance would not have been that big a surprise; he was frequenting the mission house for meals; perhaps he had already become separated from his family. I know there are many other sides to this argument - any takers?

To those who've expressed dismay at small children attending cons - I attended OctoberTrek a few months ago and was extremely irritated by the constant wailing of a little baby (no more than a month old, judging by its size). The poor tyke was obviously tired, hungry, or wet (or worse) - having had two, I recognize the distress call of an infant. The parent jiggled it unrelentingly up and down, side to side, for over an hour, while Jonathan Frakes delivered his talk and answered

questions. It wasn't fair to those of us who waited, standing room only, to hear him, and it certainly wasn't fair to the innocent child, who should have been left home with Grandma.

To Sheila et al - If you have to increase the subscription rate, so be it, but *please* don't decrease the size of the postbag! It is invariably my favourite part of the newsletter. It gives me what I need most - interplay and communication from fellow fans - the whole diverse lot of them!

To E.D. Davies - If you're looking for some zines from reputable sources in the U.S.A., I can heartily recommend Forever Productions (Sandy Bookman and Jordys Miller, eds.), who have advertised previously in IDIC, and also Bill Hupe, who is known internationally and distributes ScoTpress in the States (I really appreciate this service, as it cuts down tremendously on the postage, plus it gives you extra distribution). You can write him with a SASE (plus IRC) and you'll get a giant publication list!

To Gloria Fry - You seem to have a tremendous knowledge of names and their origins. My father's family is Smith, which could really be anything (considering how many "black sheep" changed their names to Smith, and how many took the name because of their occupation - blacksmith, coopersmith, silversmith, etc.), but my mother's family names on her maternal grandparent's side are Deen and Thames. Do you have any knowledge of these names?

To Kathleen Glancy - Thanks for the kind words about the profiles, although I cannot claim knowledge of the "Zombies" episodes nor the "Eternity Smith" comic. As to my selection of "Oh Captain, my Captain", it was not done without some consideration, knowing that the "more literate" Shatner fans might take issue (that *might* provoke some bruised egos, Kathleen!). However, I defend my decision to use it based upon some preconceptions I have about Star Trek VI. Now that I've seen it, I stand by my quote with more determination. I saw the film twice (with plans to see it yet again - it is *EXCELLENT*) and thought it ironic that the quote I used described a man long dead, but whose ideals were such that a certain Captain four centuries later revered and admired him to such an extent that an alien race created a new Lincoln for him! In that light, then, what better homage can we pay to Jas. T. Kirk than to say he will never - EVER - be forgotten? Or replaced.

Heather Gibson - Glasgow

I hope everybody in IDIC had a great Christmas and New Year.

I am really enjoying my membership and reading other people's letters and views. I am amazed at the amount of intelligent debate that goes on as well as sense of humour that some people have (especially you, Elena Bond!)

I would also like to express the sadness I felt when I heard about Gene Roddenberry's death. Above all he believed in the human race and the value and strength of friendship. I think he would be very happy to know of the spirit of friendship that is so prevalent in Trek fandom.

My favourite Trek-bits? Well for Classic it has to be whenever a guy in a red uniform goes anywhere because you know he's going to "buy it". I remember being quite convinced of this when I was very young (about 4). I heard that Spike Lee said that it was always black people who got sent down the tunnel to their death in ST; it's not - it's only if you have the misfortune to have a red shirt on! In the films it has to be when Kirk is stealing the Enterprise from spacedock in ST:TSFS for sheer drama. Lately, a Next Gen highpoint was at the beginning of "The Price" when Picard exhorts Deanna to join them in Ten Forward by saying "Just throw any old thing on". I also liked "The Schizoid Man", "Conspiracy" - its ending made that episode - "Contagion" and generally I like Season 3's episodes better than the first two. Also anything with Q or Lwaxana Troi in it is a winner for me and for this reason I *really* loved "Q-in-Law".

To Nina Lynch - I'm not a Yar fan either but I think Denise Crosby's character

makes a very effective 'baddie'. When Data gives her the Vulcan nerve pinch in 'Unification' I clapped and cheered along with the rest of the audience. I think there could be an interesting situation with her and Picard in future; he could maybe get to her by making her accept her Human half again.

To Gaile Wood - re Riker being a smoothie, boy are you right. Some of his chat up lines are - well, I wouldn't take them seriously. If anyone said to me "Your eyes are like stars" I would think "What are you on?" I think such an intelligent and generally articulate guy could come up with better than that. How Deanna fell for him in the past I do not know; maybe they made her laugh.

I would just like to finish with some praise for the character of Geordi La Forge. He is a wonderful optimist and has great faith and trust in those around him - I suppose this has come about by living with his disability for so long. He has a wonderful piece of philosophy - Just Wing It. I'm sure that many problems could be solved if people could learn just to wing it and take each day as it comes.

Benjamin Cockrell - Surbiton, Surrey

To Steve Davies - I believe you wanted to see some of the old Star Trek cartoons. You can buy the first two volumes from Westwood Videos, 17 Merton Lodge, Gloucester Road, New Burnet, Herts EN5 1JH. Tel: 081 449 3101.

Ann Peters - Kidderminster, Worcs.

To Sherry Golding: If you particularly want Chekov stories, I believe the Walter Koenig fan club produces zines that are full of them.

To Kirstie Jordan: The ensigns of command had me baffled too for a while and then I read somewhere that 'ensigns' means 'duties' and suddenly it all became clear. And no, my dictionary doesn't give that particular definition either. Melinda Snodgrass seems to like obscure titles - Up The Long Ladder was another of her scripts.

To Eddie Yau: Deanna Troi becoming Chief of Security was a joke in something I wrote for IDIC eons ago, but, quite honestly, I don't reckon Marina Sirtis could have been much worse than Denise Crosby in the part - oops, hundreds of instant enemies - and she did originally audition for Tasha's role, after all. She has a very strong presence and I think she would have made a great Security Chief. I also think it's a little unfair of you to say you'd have hated The Enemy if Troi had been on the planet, when you really have no idea how the writers intended to handle it.

To Leslie Hatch: I think you're right that no-one has called a female officer 'Mr.' in either TV series, but in Disaster, Troi is called 'sir' when in command of the bridge. I really can't say I object to this. 'Sir' and 'Mr.' carry a certain authority that 'Madam' and 'Miss' or worse still, 'Mrs.' do not - probably because of the general acceptance of male supremacy in our culture. I see no reason why 'sir' and 'Mr.' could not have become perfectly acceptable ways of addressing officers of either sex by the 24th century.

To Matthew Conway: All Red Dwarf episodes are written by the same two people and they can hardly be expected to produce 26 stories a season all by themselves. If it were opened up to other writers and produced under the kind of pressures the American system creates, it could well end up being a completely different show. If Gene Roddenberry had written just 6 shows a season and written them all himself, who knows what Star Trek would have been like - though I have to say if they'd all been as sexist as Turnabout Intruder, I, for one, wouldn't have been a Roddenberry fan.

To Edward Woo: You seem to be pretty good at sorting out technical matters, so perhaps you can explain this one to me. How do the Enterprise doors know when someone wants to go through them? Quite often, someone will walk right up to them, but have something to say and turn to speak before leaving. The doors stay closed.

Then, when the person REALLY wants to go through them, hey presto - the doors open. The best example of this is in Coming of Age when Remmick is about to leave Picard and Admiral Quinn, but that is by no means the only instance. The real answer is bad direction, of course, but I wonder what the Star Trek universe explanation is.

To Janet: I don't think running a Star Trek club and letting it take over your life really comes into the 'get a life' category. It's not the fact that it takes up all your time that's important, but how it takes up your time, and, judging by the postbag, what you're doing, brings a great deal of pleasure to a lot of people. IDIC certainly has the best edited newsletter I've yet come across.

Z.T. Hunt - Hull

The death of Gene Roddenberry came as a palpable blow. I recall hearing the news and feeling I had just lost a friend, even though I had never met the man, nor even seen him from afar. I knew his face from photographs, I knew his voice only from his introduction to the CIC video presentation of 'The Cage', I knew some details of his history from magazine interviews, but through Star Trek, I felt I knew the man as well - the warmth, hopes, dreams, mischievous humour, determination, courage and integrity.

Star Trek is a piece of fiction, some parts of it good, some parts of it not so good. Encapsulated in the best of it is the spirit of Gene Roddenberry. Through Star Trek, his spirit will continue to soar and, with luck and effort, perhaps a little of the fiction will become a reality.

Barbel Schmidt - Ashford, Kent

To Eddie Yau - I really don't understand why so many people criticize 'Redemption II' so much. The problem with 'Redemption' is, that it is often compared with 'The Best of Both Worlds', really an unfair comparison. 'Best of Both Worlds' is unique because of the Borg topic itself and the extraordinary special effects, not to mention the brilliant story. 'Redemption' as a Klingon story could never achieve that. 'Redemption' is also a part of a series within a series, starting way back in season two with 'The Emissary'. I can imagine that many newcomers had trouble to understand the full background and I think it was a mistake to use this great story as a cliffhanger. Recently I saw 'Unification'. This would have been a cliff hanger much more to my liking! Like 'Best of Both Worlds', this two-parter is very special and Leonard Nimoy and Mark Leonard are very impressive in it.

Obviously you are very anti-Wesley when I look at your least favourite episodes. I am certainly no Wesley fan but I don't think that he is that bad. I even like 'Coming of Age' and 'The Dauphin'. The latest Wesley episode, 'The Game' is also very good.

No, I certainly don't agree with what you said about Deanna. I think it is very regrettable that she has had so few opportunities so far to show what she can do. Unfortunately she only evolved in very few episodes and in the books and the comics. Obviously Deanna has problems to be fully accepted by the script writers. Because of Marina Sirtis' exotic beauty and her role as a counselor people like you can't imagine her in an action episode. Well, I think that skill and intelligence form a good fighter (like Tasha), not brute strength. Deanna's empathic abilities and her training as a psychologist additionally benefit her in a dangerous situation. Deanna proved herself in the novels 'Contamination' and 'A Rock and a Hard Place' as well as in the episodes 'Night Terrors' and 'Disaster'. Yes, I think she handled command in 'Disaster' very well! In spite of being no technician she had to make some very difficult technical decisions. She listened to opinions of both sides and when she decided she didn't follow the easy path. My respect for her grew since I watched this episode! I think it is very regrettable that it is only now the authors have started to give Deanna good stories at least a bit more often. Deanna is a good character with lots of potential that has been wasted. So I regret it very much that the Deanna/Riker relationship will not be continued and she is too good just for giving her dialogues that are exchangeable with Guinan.

To Mel Claessans - There is a big waste of a female character in Next Generation, even worse than the one of Deanna Troi. I remember very well when I first heard of K'Ehleyr's return in 'Reunion'. I was delighted and wrote to a former pen pal that I hoped that she could even become a regular character, a kind of replacement for Tasha. I was shocked when I learned from him that she died. Now I know the background of her death. Mr. Pillar killed her because he wanted to give Worf a reason to kill Duras and he thought this would be the ideal solution. In both magazines where I read that it was said that Mr. Pillar was proud about this decision, in one he was even laughing when he talked about that. There is nothing to be proud of because this was a very shortsighted decision. Yes, Worf killed Duras because he killed his mate, fine, it worked. But we could have had both if Mr. Pillar had allowed Dr. Crusher to revive her. Dr. Crusher also revived Yareena in 'Code of Honour' and tried the same with Tasha in 'Skin of Evil'. It could have been done, but this opportunity had been wasted, a shame. She would have had great opportunities. For example I would have loved it to see her put together with Duras' sisters.

No, I don't think that K'Ehleyr had to die. Her death is a terrible waste and for me the biggest mistake ever done on Star Trek.

Gloria Fry - Glasgow

Newsletter 19 was excellent as are all the others, but sad this time, with the many tributes to Gene Roddenberry, yet inspiring all the same to read the effect his dream has had on all our lives.

On a lighter note, have fans in Scotland noticed that the character 'Chancer' in that excellent comedy 'City Lights' often wears Kirk or Spock T-shirts? I believe the show is repeated on BBC2 each summer, so the rest of Britain can see it then. Is the actor a fan, I wonder? Or perhaps the ST T-shirts are just a few out of many. Does anyone know?

To Sherry Golding - I have occasionally thought that Chekov is neglected in fan writing (not that I have read much, so perhaps I am wrong), but although I have used him in one of my stories, I have not yet applied myself to getting into his character very much as yet. Maybe one day...

To Miss E.D. Davies - Thank you for your kind and encouraging comments. I agree with you about original ST stories and the depth of feeling which exists between the characters. It was and is totally unique.

To John Mullen - I think your observations of the way Classic Trek was played are entirely correct, and I agree wholeheartedly with everything you said (n/l 19). The style of acting in it was very different from today's television. Then it was more 'over the top' as you put it, more like stage-acting as the actors used their whole bodies to express their feelings, and perhaps that is one reason why it is still so fresh and popular, for the cast, regulars and guests alike all did their training on the stage and put that vibrant intensity into their characters.

To Nina Lynch - I am another who can watch and re-watch classic Trek and always enjoy it, finding new things in it each time. It is fun to quote lines of dialogue then see if the other person can name the episode. And... another extra missed out in n/l 18 along with Lt Brent was Lt Hadley. He was only named in 'Piece of the Action' but was prominent in many episodes, usually on the Navigation station, or sometimes on Helm.

To Elena Bond - A friend of mine from New York once brought my daughters T-shirts with the immortal line 'Beam me up Scotty, there's no intelligent life down here.'

A few comments on TNG. The episode with Geordi stuck on the planet with the Romulan owed a great deal to the Barry Longyear story 'Enemy Mine', which is a fabulous little tale of enemies growing to like and even love one another. It was

made into an excellent movie, but the book is even better. The Romulans were not as effective as Longyear's Dracs, but the guest actors played their parts well, and the episode was enjoyable. Actually the Dracs are more like our old green friend the Gorn. *[Janet: I agree it's a brilliant film, I've only just seen it for the first time. I can't help wondering what Gene thought of it.]*

The location in 'Who Watches the Watchers' was very familiar. It looked just like the part of the Vasquez rocks where Kirk made is makeshift cannon in 'Arena'. One thing bothered me about this one. On a ship of a thousand people, surely there were enough Vulcans to send down, rather than disguise a Human and a half/Human. It would have been an excellent time to use some guest actors as Vulcans.

My Kind of Trek by Maggy (n/1 19) was an absolute delight. Very amusing indeed. I also must agree with Sue Embury's review of the zine 'Academy Days'.

I recently bought some single story zines, and was startled to read the sex scenes in them. I had only read ScoTpress zines before, and did not expect this. I mean, they are not shocking - I suppose no more than your average Mills and Boon scenes, and I did quite enjoy the zines - but for a youngster like my daughter, I think they are perhaps a little too much... so I do agree with your policy on explicit sex. I know some ask for age statements for adult and K/S zines, and I'm not sure where the line is drawn for these age statements. Can anyone tell me?

Laurie Haynes - DeRidder, LA, U.S.A.

Thanks to all of you who responded to my letter, "Tips On Writing American Characters." That's what's neat about this newsletter is that it provides a forum for such discussions. More than one person suggested that by the 23rd century the English language will be spoken in the same way. They may well be right about the real 23rd century, but I sort of hope not. I find the different dialects of languages fascinating and I love the diversity and individuality they give to residents of different regions. I do hope the planet can one day come together as a single unit, but I also hope the citizens of Earth never lose their individuality. This perspective comes from having been fortunate enough to travel widely. I've been to England, among other countries, and loved it. The incredible span of your history awes me; the U.S. is very much of a "Johnny-come-lately" in that regard. I hope one day to go to Scotland and Ireland, too. Hey, I want to go everywhere! Especially the moon, but I'd settle for Earth orbit.

Star Trek is a wonderful phenomenon in that it can bring people together from all over the world to unite their love for the dream Gene Roddenberry envisioned. By instilling his dream in us, I believe some of it has come to pass, but we still have a long way to go.

I saw Star Trek VI the first day it came out (had to get off work to do so) and I really loved it. It was really fantastic and though I hope it won't be the last one for our favourite original series actors, what a way to go out! Am I alone in hoping they recast the characters once Shatner and crew no longer want to do the movies? A lot of my friends disagree with me about recasting. They'd rather no one play Kirk and company if Shatner, Nimoy, and the rest can't. Of course, I definitely don't like Harve Bennett's "Starfleet Academy" idea. It sounds terribly boring and I don't see how our favourite characters could believably interact in that scenario.

Can you help

Suggestions

Vivienne Ahmad: I wish to see more European and US news on conventions especially if I go on vacations...

[We do give info on some overseas conventions but there are a lot of conventions and we don't really want to fill the newsletter up with adverts. You can get information from Star Trek Welcomittee. Send a 9" x 4" self-addressed envelope plus 3 International Reply Coupons (USA 30c plus legal size SAE) for a list of

upcoming conventions of interest to Star Trek fans to Convention Listing
 Coordinator Shirley S. Maiewski, 481 Main Street, Hatfield, MA 01038-9753. USA.]

Benjamin Cockrell suggests we have a ranking system in the club, awarding members points for newsletter submissions, introducing new members etc. and making members anything from cadet to Admiral, depending on how many points they accumulate. [First the practicalities - we just don't have the time to work a system like this. It would be complicated and time consuming trying to keep track of members' contributions - much as we appreciate them. Second - we're not really into this ranking business. Much as we love Star Trek we feel rather daft addressing other fans as Ensign, Commander, Captain etc. It is fine for those who like it but, really, it's not for us. We hope our contributors get their reward by seeing their work in print.]

"I THINK I'M GOING TO BE GETTING A CALL FROM PARAMOUNT" LEONARD NIMOY'S TALK AT LN CON 23/11/91

Notes by Karen Sparks

About half an hour before the great man was due to appear I was driven out of the main hall by cold and boldly went in search of coffee. As I glanced out of the front window on my way past I thought casually, 'That's a nice car,' and then all thoughts of coffee fled from my mind as I saw a heart-stoppingly familiar figure get out of it...! He was really here!

A video recording was made of Leonard's talk for archival purposes only; for copyright/contractual reasons it will not be available for sale. Neither were audio recordings permitted but photography was and Leonard bore the constant distraction of flashlights graciously and uncomplainingly. Throughout his two and a half hours on stage (one hour longer than he was scheduled for) the guest of honour appeared relaxed, interested and genuinely pleased to be there - "It has always troubled me that these Leonard Nimoy cons are held every year and Leonard Nimoy is never there!" He was dressed in black trousers and grey jumper, and looks considerably younger than he does on screen.

For the first hour he chatted fairly generally about Star Trek from its early days, which he described as "Exciting, strange, shocking," through to the films. He mentioned the early major problems with the props company initially contracted to make Spock's ears and said that although he considered himself a character actor who did not generally care how he looked as long as it was right for the part, he had nevertheless worked since he was 15 to establish a career with some dignity and did not want to look like Dumbo!

One subject Leonard returned to more than once was his book "I Am Not Spock". He read several sections of it to us; and the collection of memos between him and show executives re stationery and fan mail expenses during the earliest days of the show caused much amusement. He realised fairly rapidly after publication that the choice of this chapter heading as the book's title was a mistake. He received a lot of very negative mail and was dismayed that his intentions had been so badly misunderstood. He was interested by a suggestion from the audience that the book might be read by him onto audiotape. He said he had wanted to put that whole experience behind him but perhaps now it might be possible to turn it into something positive after all. The problem was finally solved by George Lucas with "Star Wars" which, as we all know, prompted Paramount to dust off the crown jewels from the family vault and make TMP.

This first film was described by Leonard as unrewarding and he paraphrased the dialogue as, "What is it?" - "I don't know." - "What's it going to do?" - "Let's wait and see."

He went on to talk about TWOK ("Ricardo Montalban and his chest,") and said he had reasoned that at least his promised great death scene must involve the character! A family (cast and crew) preview showing of TWOK was held at Paramount, during which Leonard felt tense and upset at the impending death of Spock and he wanted to leave the auditorium, but did not for fear of being misunderstood again. He had not known about the scene added near the end showing the casket resting on the planet surface.

Leonard said that he had been pleasantly surprised when his suggestion of directing TSFS did not cause the "Who do you think you are?" type of row that he had expected.

He showed us a short video which contained behind the scenes footage of TVH, including how the radio controlled humpback whale miniatures were made, and the additional sets and scenery built to change the appearance of Monterey Bay in California where much of the film was shot. Over the scene of Scott trying to prevent Kirk going back into the sinking Klingon bird of prey ship to free the whales, Leonard commented, "Let him go, Scotty, he'll be okay,!"

Next Leonard quickly ran through a selection of slides and a brief videotape on the making of STVI. These included shots of David Warner, Christopher Plummer, John Schuck and Michael Dorn as Klingons; Sarek; and Kim Cattrall who apparently has "an intriguing relationship with Spock"(!), and there was also a beautifully composed collage of scenes and faces. Leonard said that STVI was designed to say goodbye and that it is an appropriate film to end with, dealing as it does with the beginning of the end of Klingon hostilities, so tying in towards TNG.

This film is dedicated to Gene, as is the two-part TNG episode "Unification". Leonard said that he had attended a lovely memorial service for Gene held at Forest Lawn.

On the Saturday night we all watched "Never Forget", the true-life story completed earlier this year (after five years of work) which Leonard both produced and starred in. He spoke of this film with great feeling and its importance to him was obvious from his intensely moving and convincing performance in it. It deals with an organisation called the Institute for Historical Review who claim that the Holocaust was a hoax and never happened. Leonard portrays Mel Mermenstein, sole survivor of a family killed during the Holocaust, who fought this organisation in court for four years to prove that it did happen. In real life Mr Mermenstein is still in litigation with the Institute and Leonard was questioned by them on his sources of information for the making of the film. "Never Forget" will air on UK TV, although it is not known when. (Personally I don't know if I could bear to watch it again; it is such a moving and well crafted film that it hurt!) Leonard described it as a very contemporary story and spoke with great concern of the recent case of David Duke, former Ku Klux Klan member who ran for governorship of Louisiana and was almost elected - 60% of white voters voted for him. This man used the mailing list of the Institute of Historical Review to lobby its members and appeared on a video supporting their claim that the Holocaust was a hoax.

In response to a question about making decisions about Star Trek which fans may object to (eg. Spock's death and the destruction of the Enterprise) Leonard said there are two schools of thought here: "Give them what they want," and "Educate them to what they should have," and added that drama should deal with issues that are unexpected or even unwelcome.

While doing his one-man tour "Vincent" Leonard came to fully appreciate the value of supporting actors in a way he never had before - he described the lonely feeling of sitting on stage and "wishing someone would come through that door". In contrast, his 18 week tour of "Sherlock Holmes" with the RSC was great fun because it involved so many people.

Leonard admitted to having been initially sceptical (partly due to ego) about TNG being able to repeat the chemistry of the original cast. However, he said,

they have done very well, thank you! He enjoys watching the show which he says has talented people working on it, and it has better production values and special effects than the original. Working on the two-part episode "Unification" was a treat for him. He was made to feel very welcome and at home (and added, "If anything, there was a little too much respect for the old man!") and yet at the same time felt a strange sense of alienation at the differences. Spock only appears at the end of part one, but the second part is "wall to wall Spock". He enjoyed working with Patrick and Brent, and said Mark Lenard also did some wonderful work. Not surprisingly the episodes rated a huge audience when aired.

Leonard feels he is at an interesting point in life and has done some reflecting on it recently. With Star Trek's silver anniversary came the realisation that 25 years of his life have also passed, and now time is extremely precious. The right project could still provide a challenge but he has few unfulfilled ambitions and now wants to accomplish more with his life, rather than his profession. Poetry and photography are pastimes he hopes to return to and he has written a script for Disney from an idea he has been working on for some years. He introduced his wife Susan, and described himself as a very happy man. He closed his session by reading a poem from his book "You and I".

Watching and listening to Leonard talk, I felt a strange sense of unreality about the whole situation. The face and voice and gestures of this man are so very familiar that in one way I feel I've known him all my life, and yet this conflicted with the feeling of total disbelief that it could really be LEONARD NIMOY - actor, director, hero, Spock and not-Spock - standing there! Already the doubts are creeping in - did it really happen? - but there is the signed photo (he kindly brought with him enough for all attendees) as concrete proof that I didn't dream it!

It was a great pleasure and privilege to be present at his talk, and a joy to know how happy and settled he is feeling. I would like to thank the LN Con organisers for the chance I thought I'd never have of seeing him, and congratulate them on their smooth and unobtrusive running of the whole weekend. My condolences to all the people who wanted to be there and couldn't, and I hope these brief notes make up a little bit for their disappointment.

THE 11TH LEONARD NIMOY CONVENTION

22nd - 24th November 1991; Victoria Hotel, Nottingham

Reported by Linda Wood

The visual theme for this year's LN Con was "The Sun Also Rises", and the Consort Suite was bedecked with streamers and balloons of black, white and red, the principal colours used in the mini-series in which Leonard played The Count, the Russian baddie who comes to a sticky end.

Throughout the weekend the non-stop (almost!) programme consisted of some perennial favourites of regular LN-conners, including Baffled, She'll Be Company for You, and various Mission Impossible episodes; some new favourites, including The Old Overland Trail, The Man From UNCLE with Bill Shatner, an episode of Gunsmoke called The Treasure of John Walking Fox in which LN is the Comanche injun of the title (he looks great in buckskins and long hair!) and the hysterical episode of Target called Piano to Thunder Springs in which LN is a baddie cowboy. The lady of the story at one point gets bitten by a rattlesnake and her moans sound anything but a woman in pain! Then there were the delights of some previously unseen shows that our hero made in the late 50s to early 60s. These included episodes of Sea Hunt, the pilot of a non-starter series called Luke and the Tenderfoot (LN was a baddie cowboy) and Highway Patrol (Ten-Four!) There were, however, two major highlights (apart from the ultimate highlight!) TOne was Never

Forget, the TV movie Leonard made earlier this year about the Jewish Auschwitz survivor Mel Mermelstein, who, in 1980, was challenged to prove that the Holocaust actually occurred. Apparently there are thousands of neo-Nazis, including American Senators, who claim that the genocide of the Jews never happened. LN's performance as Mermelstein was an unforgettable tour de force of powerful and highly emotional acting. The other treat was Unification I & II, Spock's two ST:TNG episodes. As this was shown on the Sunday evening after The Main Attraction had appeared, we were unable to discuss it with him, but it is an unusual, somewhat sad story showing us what has become of Spock and Sarek in the intervening years.

9111.24 at 11 am was the Stardate everyone had been waiting for. Nicki Barton quite simply came onstage, introduced Leonard Nimoy and on he came. Dressed casually in a grey pullover, blue shirt and black slacks he is, despite what many people say, still a slim, elegant, stunningly handsome man. Unfortunately because of his contractual agreements, no-one was permitted to video or audiotape his appearance. Only one official video was permitted for posterity, so verbatim reporting of what he said is impossible and one has to resort to memory. We were, however, permitted still photography.

He seemed a little taken aback at the reception he received, saying, "I don't know where to start." Once he got going, however, he gave us a concise resume of his career to date. He read a lengthy extract from I Am Not Spock (some memos which he originated during the time that his popularity was increasing astronomically and office equipment such as pencils and paper had to be begged, stolen or borrowed). He admitted that the title I Am Not Spock was a mistake because it was negative and people believed he was denouncing the character which, if one reads the book, it is evident he is not. He may in the future write its sequel, the title for which is still under review. He may also write more poetry. When told that a copy of I Am Not Spock went at the auction the previous day for £50, he promised that he would look into finding a British publisher for his books. He showed us slides of ST VI and a video on the making of ST IV, with particular reference to the mechanics of the miniature whales and the special effects. He told us they found it impossible to re-create a breaching whale and showed us the hilarious attempts they made with the models. He gave a question and answer session during which many and varied questions were asked. He spoke of his journey to his parents' village of Zaslav in the Ukraine; his involvement in Never Forget and Unification I & II. When he learned that we had not yet seen Unification he laughingly said, "I'm one step ahead of you at last!" He said he would very much like to do Baffled II with Susan Hampshire, a statement which was met with enthusiastic applause. When asked why some of his characters in films he has made were changed from the original book (ie the Count in The Sun Also Rises), he pointed out that a story needs a protagonist and, in its original state, the book did not have one.

When asked about his future, he said that he was now more concerned with the quality of life than the quantity of work and he was very aware of how precious each moment of life is.

He closed his appearance with a reading from his poetry book You & I, and an emotional catch in his voice was clearly heard as he read to us his words of love. He wished us as much love and happiness as he had found. Nicki Barton gave the Vote of Thanks, and presented him with a Nottingham Lace tablecloth and a bow and arrow set for Aaron, his stepson, and then, with a Vulcan salute, he left the stage.

Throughout the two and a half hours he held the stage (aided by his wife Susan, whom he introduced to us at the start of the session and who helped with the slides and videos), he charmed the audience with his teasing sense of humour and 10,000 megawatt smile. Everyone there, even the Bill Shatner fans who came along, was impressed by the warm, emotional character of this very special man.

Later, at the Closing Ceremony, Nicki told us that he had been very impressed with us and our interest in his career and has promised to return. Susan, his

wife, promised Nicki that she would hold him to that.

My only regret was that he did not give us the opportunity to meet him personally. But now that he has appeared before his British fans, well, maybe next time...

What mark did he leave behind? Materially, he left us all with a black-and-white autographed photograph. Spiritually, he left us with the memory of his warmth, gentleness, sense of humour, smile, laughter and, most importantly, his love of life.

That we love him is a sentiment that I hope Leonard Nimoy will never forget.

THE 11TH LEONARD NIMOY CONVENTION - A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

A report by Sue Embury

On the morning of Friday November 22nd I packed the kids/husband off to school/work, did the morning rounds of the farm livestock, checked everything one last time, and drove away from everyday cares heading for the wonderful world of Fandom: specifically - Leonard Nimoy Fandom.

At the Victoria Hotel in Nottingham I just managed to squeeze the car into the hotel car park, which was a great help when it came to unloading the boxes of zines I'd brought for the dealers room. While waiting for the hotel to get the room ready, I met up with my room mate, Maureen Oxenberry. We sat down for a chat over a cup of coffee. Eventually we were allowed to dump our stuff in the room and settle down to some serious video viewing. The video equipment at this con was excellent. I don't think there was one technical hitch to mar the proceedings and there was a BIG screen, easily seen from all parts of room. Friday's programme warmed up with a selection of LN appearances in Columbo, old westerns and occasional Star Trek, and Mission Impossible episodes. Highlight of the day for me was "Kid Monk Baroni" which most of the seasoned LN con-goers had seen already. LN plays the lead role - a disfigured youth (this was made in 1952) who becomes a boxer. Despite its dated style and some signs of wear and tear on the old film reels, I found this a very effective and entertaining movie. It was LN's first big break, and he portrays an alienated character very convincingly, setting a trend for future casting no doubt.

I spent most of Saturday minding my table in the dealers' room and trade was brisk. I took time out to watch "Baffled", then I was obliged to go out into the real world in search of a camera shop to buy a new flash gun, as my old one had just expired on the very eve of LN's appearance! I caught a bit of the auction, but missed the sale of a pair of Spock ears donated by LN. They raised over £400, and were later handed in to the secure keeping of the hotel safe, and the receptionist logged them as "boxed ears". By the end of Saturday afternoon I had cleared my stocks of zines, old and new, so I gratefully shut up shop and gave myself whole-heartedly to relaxation and video viewing. Highlight of Saturday evening had to be "Never Forget", LN's recent TV movie which dramatises the true story of a Holocaust survivor who gets involved in a court battle with a neo-Nazi organisation. This is a brilliant and powerful production. Watch out for it on your TV screens some time in the future. After a break at the bar, we lightened up with Star Trek III, followed by a video compilation, "A Tribute to Twenty Five Years of Star Trek" This saw us off to bed, tired but happy, well into the small hours.

Maureen and I dragged ourselves down to breakfast as early as we could manage next morning, and then went in search of seats with a view of the stage. We managed to get in the fifth row, and settled down to watch a few videos while trying to control our mounting excitement. As 11 o'clock approached, the room

filled to capacity. We learned later that when LN arrived, he shook hands and chatted briefly with the few fans who were in the hotel foyer. Meanwhile, back in the auditorium, frantic last minute checks on camera equipment were in progress. Unfortunately no video or audio recording of the talk was permitted, excepting a video for Spotlight's own "archives". However, when LN duly appeared at the appointed hour, he was met with tumultuous applause and a barrage of flash photography.

When we had calmed down, (a little), he began by apologising for not having attended any of the previous ten Leonard Nimoy conventions, and introduced his wife, who was sitting unobtrusively at the back of the hall. He then proceeded to tell us about the influence which Star Trek has had on the course of his career, sometimes quoting passages from his book "I am not Spock", (which, incidentally, proved in great demand during the auction at £30-£40+ per copy). He remarked that during the seventies it became obvious that there was an insatiable demand for more Star Trek, and delighted his audience with an impersonation of the creature from "Little Shop of Horrors" saying "FEED ME!!!" Well they did feed us, and we've grown, and are still demanding more!

LN showed us a video about the construction of model whales for STIV. We were all amazed to learn that the only footage of real whales seen in the film is the shot of whales breaching at the end of the scene in San Francisco Bay. The close up shots of full size whale heads and tails were models of course, but in addition, all the "under sea" shots were actually of radio controlled model whales swimming in a tank! These models were about a metre long and we saw clips of them being constructed and of one of them swimming around a tank pursued by a real seal. I'm sure the seal couldn't make out whether it was alive or not, it looked so convincing. LN said that the team responsible for the whales were nominated for a SFX award, but didn't win, and he's certain the reason was that the judges didn't recognise which were the model whales in the film. Even now I know, I find it hard to believe they're models, looking at the finished movie.

After this came clips and slides from STVI, and it looks great! No new plot details were revealed, but from the brief video clips it was clear that Spock does have a rather interesting relationship with the Vulcan Lt. Valeris. Also Kirk's deep seated distrust of Klingons provides an important story element. LN told us that the story line concerning the Klingon plea for help from the Federation is meant to parallel the ailing Soviet Union's appeal to the West. He also said that the story was intended to be the closing one for the original crew. Personally, I hope not!

When it came to question time, he was asked about a wide range of topics concerning his career, and seemed willing to keep a dialogue going for almost as long as we were - but that would have been forever! Alas, all good things must come to an end, and at a little after one thirty the session was wound up. Mr. Nimoy and his wife were presented with gifts, thanked sincerely for attending, and left the stage to thunderous applause.

If Mr. Nimoy enjoyed this presentation one tenth as much as we did, then maybe he could be persuaded to come to Britain again. Con organisers please ask him - you never know your luck. One interesting titbit which emerged somewhere along the line: Nimoy is a Russian name meaning (improbable as this may sound after a 2 1/2 hour talk) - mute!

The only way to go after a high spot like this must be down, but I didn't come down to earth for a week! I think most of the other con-attendees were up there on cloud nine with me. We each collected a signed photo of LN. There was no autograph session, but he had brought along a box of "ones he did earlier". There was a very happy atmosphere at the closing ceremony, and I collected another (different) signed photo as a prize in the fiction competition, which boosted me up to cloud nine and a half! Although the closing ceremony officially marked the end, most people stayed on to watch Unification I. We had been warned by LN that Spock's appearance in Part I was minute, and only at the very end, so we were not

kept on tenterhooks waiting for his bit. There are some good comic scenes with Data and Picard, and some emotional ones with the Bandii-stricken Sarek. This episode was discussed extensively over the farewell dinner that evening. Various theories were put forward as to what the resolution might be, but all proved wide of the mark when we viewed Part II afterwards. Spock really comes into the forefront of the action in this, and I found it a very believable portrayal of what he might be doing in the second century of his life. Treading a lonely path it would seem, but trying to make an important contribution to Galactic peace. I won't give the plot away, but it will come as no surprise if I reveal that Denise Crosby/Seia has a dangerous hand in Romulan affairs. It may come as an unexpected surprise to some fans that Spock and Data work well together to beat the bad guys, and they have a very interesting conversation about the merits or demerits of emotions. This episode has been dedicated to Gene Roddenberry.

The evening was wound up with an entertaining compilation of LN interviews, Star Trek bloopers, music videos and the like. In the wee small hours we finally took the lift ("Leonard used this." - catchphrase of the con) up to our rooms and declared the weekend finally over, but definitely one to remember.

MIDCON - SCOTT LEVA'S TALK

reported by Helen White

CAUTION! This report contains information about STVI!

Scott has been a stuntman for about thirteen years, working on all sorts of films, including STVI. He's worked on such things as The Toxic Avenger, Spiderman and Beauty and the Beast, and has been filming on Hook, the new Spielberg film.

As to how he got involved in STVI; Don Pike, the stunt co-ordinator, approached him, saying that they needed crew for The Excelsior. He said that it might only involve two or three days' work, but Scott wanted to get into Trek. Being Excelsior crew, he naturally got to work with George Takei. The bridge set was on 'lifts', so when 'a planet' blows up and Excelsior turns on its side, the effect was achieved partly with lifts and partly with stuntmen throwing themselves around in traditional Trek fashion. They had to be very careful not to break anything, as the set was going to be redressed as the Enterprise!

Scott also did a scene aboard a Bird of Prey, in which he got launched against a wall- 12 times! The next day, he played a dead Klingon....

The Paramount executives have apparently been 'raving' about STVI (shock, horror), and are trying to push it as much as they can.

Nick Meyer is 'kind of weird' as a director - he shoots without telling people the script, so they often don't know why they're doing something. Scott said that he's very sarcastic.

Grace Lee Whitney plays Sulu's Communications Officer.

Scott then offered to answer questions: he's never been badly hurt, only had bumps and bruises, the furthest fall he's done is 200 feet (ugh), he's been an extra on TNG (he didn't say in which episode(s)).

He then finished off by doing a few gymnastic 'flips' across the room!

I Was Trapped In A Lift With Colin Baker,

No Not Really But It Sounds Better Than

'I Travelled In A Lift With...'

Midcon '91; A Report by Helen White

Having finally found our hotel (one of the overflows), we unloaded all our luggage and zoomed off to the Holiday Inn, where we registered. It turned out that it was Jacqueline Comben's birthday, Many Happy Returns. We then went up to the dealers' room and spent some money, then I had to go and steward while 'Family' was on. This is one of my favourite episodes, so I was pleased to see it again.

After I'd finished stewarding, we all went back to the dealers' room. I was congratulating myself on my restraint when a voice sounded in my ear; "I've got loads of zines in my room for sale if you want to come and see." (Hello Beverley) This meant that all my careful financial planning (ha ha) went to pot, and I ended up with yet more zines, sigh. I've just finished reading them all, three weeks later.

Jo then had to steward in the main hall, but it was 'Night Terrors', which I do not like at all, so Jim and I went out to chat to friends. We then all went up to Richard's (hello, Richard) room and joined yet another ST club, NCC 1711, which he's involved in.

After that, we decided that it was time for food, and went out for fish and chips, as we'd found that prices in the Holiday Inn were a tad, um, extortionate (£4.25 for a cheeseburger....), and we were too late for the cheap food.

When we arrived back at the HI, we met up with Maureen, Linda, Lesley and co, who were on Seatrek with us, and sat down for a chat. Jo proceeded to practise her juggling (cue for jokes about 'balls'), whereupon two more people zoomed over to us and joined in.

After we'd finished chatting, and having severe hysterics in the process, we went our separate ways. Jo, Jim and I went to see an episode of the Tomorrow People, ha ha, to think I used to take it seriously. The aliens in this particular episode had the appearance of certain, um, items from an Anne Summers catalogue (this is a family publication you know), leading to yet more hysteria, and as for the 'special' effects.... most entertaining.

Saturday, and we drove back to the HI, meeting Richard and parking some of our belongings in his room. We then went to the Opening Ceremony (at 8.45am, I kid you not). The committee were looking as bleary-eyed as the rest of us, and they got the hotel to bring them breakfast! They amused us all by throwing items into the audience, including giant plastic spiders, and wind-up ghosts, mummies and 'grim reapers'.

After that was a talk from Richard Arnold (see elsewhere) and one from Chas Evans of CIC, then Miri Rana came on. If you've been to a con you'll know who she is, if not, you don't know what you're missing!

Next on the bill was Jacqueline Pearce (Servalan from Blakes Seven); I'm not that interested in B7, so I returned (you guessed it) to the dealers' room, and chatted with friends until it was time for 'Darmok' (episode 2 of 5th season TNG). It's a brilliant episode, very much spirit-of-Trek.

Following lunch, which followed 'Darmok', Jo and I did some more stewarding

and guarded the auction items, which for some reason seemed to include a piece of toast. The charity auction went very well. Jim got himself a Franklin Mint Klingon K7 Cruiser (pewter) for a bargain price, relatively speaking, and a panel off the Klingon ship set from STVI went for £150.

After the auction, it was time for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Special, courtesy of Richard. It consisted of all sorts of snippets of the various Treks, and interviews with Gene and cast members, plus a piece on the making of STVI, and was narrated by Messrs Shatner and Nimoy. It also had some of the bloopers at the end of the programme, including some of the rarer set (the ones including Spock sucking a lollipop).

Next came Scott's talk (see elsewhere), followed by more auction. We then split up; I went to the trivia quiz, and all the others went off to the Pizza Hut. I was in a team of three for the quiz, and we won, shock horror. I then went to watch the fancy dress entrants arrive. These included a certain android dressed in judicial robes and adorned with a sign: 'LA Lore' (groan), and some spectacularly bad Borgs. Their ship consisted of a gentleman encased in a cardboard box which had been sprayed silver and with a model of the D Enterprise attached to it with a piece of wire, and two other chaps dressed in bin-liners, and decorated with such items as a Spectrum computer keyboard and an eggwhisk. When it was their turn to go on, they caused mass hysteria, especially as they had a little song:

Meet the Borg 'cos the Borg are here, the Borg to assimilate you.....

Also present were the group of Klingons who won the fancy dress at UFP this year; they later took part in the Karaoke and did Twist and Shout, which I'm sorry to say that I missed.

After the fancy dress was the disco and Karaoke; by now, the others had returned from the Pizza Hut (along with some garlic bread for me, poo ur gosh, to quote a certain N Molesworth), and we went up and did La Bamba, as The Alien Loonies featuring T'Dah the Vulcan (me, with the others as my backing group).

We then adjourned to the Stewards' Party, which was rather quiet by this stage, and then went up to Richard's room to dump some of our stuff. As we got into the lift we encountered Colin Baker (Dr Who as was), who seemed totally mad, like all the best people.

We then returned to the party, and I had a long chat with Chas Evans from CIC. By the time we'd finished talking and found all the others, it was 12.45am, so we went back to the hotel and to bed.

Sunday, Dimanche, Sonntag, nichiyobi, etc, and we checked out of our hotel, then parked our things in Richard's room for safe-keeping. I stewarded for Colin's talk, ie I sat outside the hall and checked badges, and chatted to several people, which was very relaxing, then went back to the dealers' room (again) to continue the conversation that I'd been having with Janet Ellicott, who was dealerng.

Eventually I returned to the main hall for the closing ceremony, where the committee entertained us by throwing more 'livestock' into the audience and by having a 'rugger match' on the lectern with lots of the wind-up gnosts etc. They then started throwing streamers at us, so we felt that it was only generous to return them.....chaos ensued.

The awards were all given out by the guests, including Nicola Bryant (Per from Dr Who), and then she and Colin did a talk, which was highly entertaining; they're both very funny.

Next was a session with Richard and Scott (see elsewhere), and after that Jacqueline Pearce was back, so I went out to talk to the former two gentlemen, then returned for the end of Ed Bishop's (Commander Straker, I think, from UFO) talk, and then Richard returned with the STVI trailer, and some slides, more of which elsewhere.

That concluded the main programme, so we collected our belongings, managed to squeeze them all into the car, and went home, having had a great time.

HURRY UP AND Q SEATREK AND TRAVEL REPORT

Brenda Kelsey, Joanne Osborne & Beverley Golesworthy

Yes, we went back to America. This time we decided to do Seatrek. Having looked at the prices of flights and the price of the additional goodies from the Seatrek organisers we decided to do a package deal instead. We decided not to go B.A. This time Virgin was nominated for the job of getting us Stateside. Virgin, for a small sum, lets package people 'go independent' for a while so we booked up a villa, and a free car, and went off to do Orlando.

The first problem was that the tickets were late; the next that the internal flight from Orlando back to Miami was on the wrong date, a minor problem to be solved by picking up the corrected tickets at Gatwick Airport. Needless to say the tickets weren't there. It took a while to sort that out but that didn't matter too much because the flight had been delayed from 11:15 to 14:30 - the Jumbo had been struck by lightning on the way into Gatwick. This meant that the connecting flight from Miami to Orlando would be missed because we wouldn't be landing in Miami until 20 minutes after the connecting flight left. It turned out that we finally took off at 15:15 with a projected flight time of 8 hours and 50 minutes.

Due to the delays caused by the airlines running the Orlando shuttle we didn't land in Orlando until 23:00. By the time we found our luggage and the shuttle bus out to the car hire company (in McCoy Drive) and had completed the forms it was midnight. We were presented with a blue Mirage. It was promptly christened the Unreal McCoy, shortened to Bones for later use.

I have done many insane things in my life but that journey to our holiday villa is an Everest amongst them. We were tired. It was pitch black, no street lighting, the temperature and humidity were such that the inside of the car windows were permanently fogged and so were the outside despite the windscreen wipers, and we had only the haziest notion (and a map) to guide us to our destination. Fortunately there was little traffic so my wanderings across carriage lanes as I attempted to steer an automatic car from the wrong seat didn't cause too many incidents. We made it to the villa after some 40 fraught minutes and I solemnly swore that I would never drive after dark in America again.

So naturally I did exactly that the next night because we stopped in Disney World to watch the Electric Parade and the Firework Display arching up over Cinderella's Castle.

We did Disney World and Epcot which took several days, Sea World and Universal Studios, and Kennedy Space Centre where we saw the shuttle that was due to launch that week on the pad. (It didn't launch that week. It finally took off about three weeks late.) We also managed the rare distinction of having Bones vandalised in the car park at Disney World. I was told that this was a first. Why was I not surprised?

Without exception it rained every day, usually in the afternoons for about 90 minutes. Not English type rain. The rain in Florida was incredible. Imagine standing under a hot shower which is going full blast and you get close. Every theme park sells rain ponchos with their own logos on. Every time it rained we played Spot the Logo.

Getting the car back to the hire company on the last day was even worse than driving to the villa on the first night. American cars do not have mudflaps so the amount of spray generated is enormous. That, coupled with the downpour (the hurricane season had started three weeks early) meant that you could only see the very tops of cars. I turned my headlights on full and prayed that there weren't any short cars on the road. If I am ever given the task of piloting a submarine it will not be a new experience.

We got to Miami, got a taxi and went to find the Intercontinental Hotel where we would be spending the first night, and attending the Gala Evening.

The hotel is luxurious, built to American 5-star standards which are orders of magnitude higher than UK standards. The hotel is 36 storeys tall and is right on the bay. The lobby is 5 storeys high and has a 3.5 ton marble sculpture by Henry Moore as a centre piece, surrounded by palm trees, ponds and vast armchairs. The floors and walls are in marble too. The three dried out Trekkies who staggered into this felt very underdressed in crumpled jeans and T-shirts.

We found our rooms (words fail utterly), dumped our bags and having found Dave Simmons went off to investigate the local shopping area called Bay Side. Imagine Covent Garden by the sea and that's about right. We did find several good restaurants, including a very loud chicken joint called Hooters.

The Gala Night was something of a disappointment. Due to work commitments (filming VI) Mark Lenard wasn't going to attend the cruise, so the play The Boys in Autumn that was promised didn't happen. We also didn't get to see the laser show because dinner was delayed owing to the plane carrying James Doohan, George Takei, Walter Koenig and Nichelle Nichols arriving late. That's when we found out that they wouldn't be aboard for the whole trip (required for filming VI) - in fact we were lucky that they were able to make the trip at all. Other non-attendees were Michael Dorn and Colm Meaney. There was a substantial raft of 'background' workers from the series, the comic publishers, authors and Richard Arnold and Guy Vardaman.

What we did get was film about Gene Roddenberry - I believe it was the one shown at the celebratory dinner - and a compilation of Trek spinoffs into other shows which were extremely good - the cartoons were hysterical and wickedly funny. A surprise for Gene was Robert Justman who had been added to the guest list without his knowledge.

We got to bed some time after midnight, and rose bright and early to embark on the Britanis.

A few words of explanation are necessary about the condition of this vessel which was a sincere shock to the system after the Intercontinental. It is the oldest (63 years old) working cruise liner. The systems, particularly the air conditioning, were operational only in places, and failed totally in some cabins and in the dealers' room which soon boasted door labels saying PLANET HELL.

The crew had not been informed that the next sailing was a private hire, so they were not expecting what they got, and as the whole ship seemed geared up to part you from as much money as possible in the shortest possible time there were some culture clashes. The prime example of this was the ruling that one could not buy a drink on board for money. You had to sign up for a V.I.P. card and have your drinks charged to a credit card, plus, naturally, a mandatory 15% tip of the total cost. We soon figured out that V.I.P. stood for Very Inflated Prices and became particularly caustic on the subject after we had queued up for 1 hour and 15 minutes to get a card. (1000 passengers all needing a card and only 3 stewards handing them out.) Don't forget the temperature at this time was 92 degrees and you needed to drink to replace fluids lost and we had had to queue for nearly two hours just to get on the boat!

Wil Wheaton was doing a video for himself of the trip and I regret to say he talked to us just after we had finally got our drink cards. We must have sounded

very bitter - sorry about that! The other reason that we were not particularly happy was we had inspected our coffin - sorry, cabin. It was an internal one, we knew this, but we *didn't* know that it would be 6 ft x 15 ft, for three of us! There were two double bunks in there, four wardrobe lockers, two chairs and a built in dresser. The operative word was cramped. The bunks were just 2ft bins wide and having been selected to have the top bunk I discovered that there was just 2 feet of clearance from the bunk to the ceiling.

Even so, we were lucky. Some of the English contingent were in cabins well below the waterline. One of the entertainers unwisely informed them that they were in what used to be crew's quarters until the crew complained so much that they were moved to better accommodation!

The really annoying thing about the dealers' rooms was that they looked out onto the front decks of the ship, which were reserved for crew use. These were furnished with cane armchairs and matching tables, and a cooling breeze. The rear decks where the passengers sweltered had plastic sun loungers and were frequently bombarded with soot smuts from the funnels. The small swimming pool, filled with sea water, was emptied every night. We soon learned that the crew didn't like us being out on deck late. After all, if we were out on deck we were not able to lose money in the casino or spend money in the bar. We tended to ignore what the crew wanted us to do. This included taking portions of the more mobile food offerings out on deck (paper napkins and tissues as plates) and picnicking out under the stars. There is something very magical in eating out on the deck of a cruise liner and watching the moon reflecting off the sea.

Trying to book for the shore trips was a nightmare. I stood in the queue for nearly two hours and moved just 10 ft. (This was after queueing to get on the boat and then queueing for the V.I.P. cards). Only two people were taking the bookings, it was meltingly hot and the crew, who were receiving complaints left, right and centre, were just not interested. We gave up and did not go on any of the shore trips. As the temperature was hovering in the high 90s it was just as well. We tend to collapse in the heat. Bev did go ashore in Mexico and did some more shopping.

It took a while to figure out the system on the ship but we finally did it. The only employees of the ship owners were the operating crew, and they were Greek. Everyone else, from the waiters (Spanish, Filipino and various Far Eastern Countries) to the entertainment staff (English) and including the people running the shore excursions (startled Mexicans who ran out of coaches) were concession holders who just got a bare minimum wage plus whatever they made in tips and commission. It works but the joins show.

There were other problems on the cruise, not the least of which was that the Trek content of the days tended to be fluid, with no provision at all for anybody who was not going ashore. What program there was seemed to suffer from constant and un-notified revisions and changes of venue. The ships' announcer had great difficulty when making a Trek announcement - once, fast and mumbled - but none at all when it came to ship's business. Wil Wheaton, after long hours of persistent negotiating, managed to secure for viewing on the cruise a copy of his latest film, Toy Soldiers. Unfortunately the film company gave him the wrong size film. He was not happy with that at all.

There were two sittings for dinner. The problem with this was that the main ball room only held about 350 and whilst the main events were put on twice, a certain number of the first sitting people didn't get in to the first show, whilst some that did decided not to vacate the room so that the second sitting people could see their show. We managed to get in to the first night Welcome Aboard Show and the Classic Panel, which was taken over by Nichelle and Jimmy with a lot of help from George. George's Mum was on board too and refused to leave the ship with him in Mexico despite her somewhat frail health. She utterly refuted all his attempts to change her mind by saying firmly that she wouldn't be on her own. She had a ship filled with his friends who would look after her.

We failed utterly to see the fancy dress (only one show).

One show Bev and I did squeeze in to see was the Final Gala. (Jo got stuck outside as there was no more room!) This had Wil juggling, Marina Sirtis singing, Carel Struycken playing the piano and Eric Menyuk hosting a battle of the sexes between Wil Wheaton and Robin Curtis. As this is a family zine I will merely state that the actual battle involved the use of two sticks of french bread and leave the rest to your imaginations. Needless to say, the humour was very broad, and Robin won.

One of the highlights of the cruise was the group photo. This is a carefully orchestrated event where the entire cast gets to have their picture taken 1000 times, each time with a different Trekkie sitting beaming at the camera from the centre of the front row. You are strictly warned on the way in not to waste any time. Go in, sit down, smile - flash - get up and leave. The entire process takes something less than 15 seconds per Trekkie.

What took considerably longer was attempting to get the ship's photographer to sell you copies of you in the group photo, plus all the others that had been taken. He was not expecting the overwhelming response from the passengers and got totally swamped in orders. We were fortunate to get our order filled (I refuse to say how many photos Bev bought). I did hear several American fans still trying to get their orders when we were waiting to disembark at Miami. We spent the hours waiting for clearance playing a game called Find the Key Ring. The photographer had cleverly reduced the group photos to key ring size then put any two photos into a double-sided key ring. I managed to find Jo's and my photos and got them swapped into two key rings but I couldn't find Bev's.

We went back to the Intercontinental, dumped the bags again and went for another walk around Bay Side before spending another night in sybaritic luxury. The next day we headed to Miami International and home. As a point of interest we spotted Marina at the airport; she stood behind Jo in a queue in one of the little shops there. Apart from the three of us, nobody recognised her, so we didn't intrude. It brought home to us what a difference a costume and a pair of contact lenses make.

To sum up Seatrek as an event is even more difficult than the usual con descriptions. As a holiday, the trip to Orlando and Miami and the cruise were most enjoyable; it was fun and it was definitely different. The best way to sum up Seatrek is, I think, to say that it was a cruise with some Trek content. If you expected a Trek con to happen on the boat then you were bound for a big disappointment.

Would I go again? Frankly, I don't know - but there are always possibilities.

PARDON ME, IS THIS PLANET TAKEN?

by John Jakes and Gilbert M Martin Edinburgh Players, Cameron House Community Centre, as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 1991

reviewed by Kathleen Glancy

Let's get the negative bits out of the way first, shall we? The songs were forgettable. I can still hum tunes from Fringe shows I saw years ago, but the *day* after this show I could only recall the title song, which was quite catchy, and a sort of Starfleet anthem called "Where No Man Has Gone Before". The acting was, in a lot of cases, amateurish (although everyone knew their lines). So were the costumes and make-up. The enthusiasm of the cast, their own evident enjoyment, and the amusing plot cannot be faulted, however, and made the audience more than willing to suspend disbelief. Even I began to rationalise. After all, why should

not most of the characters have been raised on a planet colonised by Scots? (Seriously, I felt it was wiser of the cast *not* to attempt American accents.) The half-ahen's Human parent could quite easily have been Welsh. The factor which turned the Pirate Captain to crime might also account for a French accent coupled with a name like Carruthers. If there can be a resemblance between a Vulcan Ambassador, a Romulan Commander and a Klingon Captain why shouldn't the Starfleet Admiral and the alien Leader look remarkably alike but for one of them having green spots? There may very well be races in the Federation which have not just pointed ears but *two-tone* pointed ears.

On to the plot. Nobody from the 'real' Star Trek universe appears - these characters are rather at the Federation's down-market end. Take Captain Jamie Church. Despite a certain similarity of names, he is rather a naive lad when we meet him. True, he is a lot younger than Kirk (the actor playing the part, who went by the single name of Hazell, looked as if he had not long begun shaving. He was no look-alike, being dark, slim and rather short, but he looked good and sang nicely) and only just promoted. I can't but feel that Kirk, even in youth, would not have engaged himself to an Admiral's spoiled daughter - and if he had, he would have waited until *after* he was assigned his ship to break it off. Jamie is more honest, or possibly more stupid, and winds up with the USS Empire, which is falling to bits, a demoralised and oddball crew (plus Lt. Stanley 'Streak' Rogers, the Admiral's nephew, and his little book for writing a report on Church) and an assignment to capture Coalsack Carruthers' band of space pirates, who have successfully eluded 10 starships.

One by one we meet the crew. There are Chekov and Sulu analogues, Wolowitz and Sumu. I don't know what Wolowitz did to get assigned to this sinkhole of a ship, but it was clear to me Sumu is there because he's descended from Dr. Fu-Manchu and nobody trusts him. This is not made explicit in the script, but the family moustache is a dead giveaway. There's no McCoy equivalent - the doctor's role is taken by a civilian medic, Wilma Dale. Those in the audience who knew that Buck Rogers's girlfriend was Wilma Deering and Flash Gordon's was Dale Arden realised at once that she was Streak's Shall, as Lady Blanche would say (this reference comprehensible only to Linda Wood, probably) and would bring out his better nature. Spock and Scotty are run together in a character combining half-humanity, pointed ears, emotionlessness, and unpronounceable name - in this case the first one - a different accent (Welsh in this case) and the ability to fix dodgy engines fast. Also a strange fascination for Captain Church, who tries to break through the logic, initiates a romantic duet, and in the end asks for a date and seems likely to get it. We are accustomed to controversy in the Fringe, but no, this is not the first K/S musical comedy. Lt. Frok is female.

There are two more major characters in the crew. Wolfington is an undercover pirate. He's also a Klingon, which nobody seems to notice. Then there is Romeo. He is a robot in Human shape. *Not*, he tells us firmly, an android. His batch had a faulty programme which caused them all to have personality quirks. Some went mad, some turned to crime, Romeo falls in love with every pretty girl he sees, and is convinced that one day he will meet his soul-mate, if Jackie Comben will pardon the expression. I don't know if Romeo is meant to run away with the show or if it was down to Paul Holmes' very engaging performance, but by the interval everyone was rooting for him to succeed in his quest.

The action starts when Wolfington sabotages the ship, kidnaps Frok, and takes her to the pirate base in the strange planet Linjafoon. Linjafoon's natives appear primitive, but Church defies the Prime Directive to lead a rescue party. Naturally he and Romeo are seized by the High Linjafoon and his men, and Romeo meets the High Linjafoon's daughter who falls in love with him. He doesn't reciprocate. Well, as her father explains, she's very fat. Actually she is a beanpole but things are back to front on Linjafoon. Fat means thin, clever means stupid, and so on. In attempting to reach an agreement that they won't suit and seal it with a handshake, Romeo discovers that they are now married, as on Linjafoon a handshake is the wedding ceremony. (It is probably better not to speculate on what they do to exchange friendly but formal greetings.) Church, meantime, has found the pirates

and they have found him. Frok is safe, since Captain Carruthers makes the pirates behave like gentlemen at all times. It can easily be seen this is no ordinary pirate captain - and indeed she isn't. She is a leggy beauty with a well-sustained French accent and if she had allowed her real name to appear in the programme I'd give her the mention she deserved.

The action becomes fast and furious. The pirates take over the Empire, but Streak, struggling between his better nature and the likely effects on his vindictive uncle if he doesn't rat on Church, has rescued Romeo and they both rescue Church and Frok. The pirates are defeated, the crew's morale is boosted, and Captain Coalsack Carruthers turns out to be - no, I'm not telling you. The clues are there - take a guess. All would be well, but as the High Linjafoon remarked when he found out the truth about his son-in-law, "this means peace!" and as the Linjafoons are another of these highly advanced races that only look primitive, along comes an Armada. Church surrenders, to everyone's horror, but only to pull off a plot twist worthy of the original by offering Wolfington the choice between life imprisonment and marriage. The High Linjafoon, who only wants a husband, any husband, for his offspring, is happy and declares Church to be a total klutz. Streak, with a little behind-the-scenes manoeuvring from Wilma, decided to leave Starfleet with her and start a new life. (His reconciliatory handshake with Church greatly bemuses the High Linjafoon.) Frok seems to be coming round to the idea that emotion might not be so bad after all, so Church is happy. Romeo is happy. Captain Coalsack Carruthers is happy. Wolfington isn't happy. Tough luck, Wolfington. The audience was happy, and this production decidedly won a Glancy I'd Go And See Them Again Award.

STAR TREK/TNG

by Sherry Golding

Since TNG is a controversial issue, I decided to send in my views.

I, like many others, prefer the original Star Trek for it had warmth and the characters were like a close family; but although TNG will never be like the original, it does have its good points, and a purpose. One thing we do have to accept is that soon the original stars will no longer be acting.

Yes, we can still watch their adventures and still be with them, for their memories are left in their films, but in time the Human mind becomes stale if something is constantly repeated.

We can watch the original Star Trek for the rest of our lives and the strong feelings which we have may always be there, but let's look at another point.

If you were on the Enterprise and all your adventures, all the planets you discovered, were only repeats and would be for the rest of your life, what would you be learning?

The story behind Star Trek was to discover and seek out new life forms, even though the idea did seem to stray somewhat, and that is what TNG occasionally takes us on. New voyages, seeking out new life and taking us into the unknown. If we only watch the original, then all that they do, all the adventures they take us on, can no longer be 'the unknown'.

If it were not for TNG Star Trek might cease to exist. Indeed, if we reject TNG we might as well reject all of Gene's philosophies, all of his work and all of his ambitions and desires. One of his ambitions was that one day we might learn to accept each other, and even reach the stars.

TNG's characters may always be strangers to us, but give TNG a chance and give

it credit where it is due. It is, like the original Star Trek, brilliantly acted; interesting; and its stories are original.

TNG does have its faults - as the original did - but nothing and no one is infallible.

TROI OR GUINAN?

by Edwin Yau

The question arises - "Is Troi really needed in TNG now that Guinan is aboard the Enterprise?"

Counselor Deanna Troi, played by - as you all know - Marina Sirtis, has been in TNG since it first started. In it, she basically plays the part of ship's psychiatrist (that's a 'shrink' to our IDIC members Stateside) and helps Captain Picard on the bridge by sensing the true emotions of people and beings he and the crew of the Enterprise have encounters with, thus informing him of any possible threats, lies, bluffs and so on.

At the start of the first season Troi had quite a bit to do, but, as the first season progressed onwards and began drawing to a close, her part seemed to get smaller and smaller (apart from the odd episode). In effect, it looked as if Troi was to suffer the same fate as Uhura did in the Original Star Trek series. Her lines were becoming all too familiar. Who doesn't know of the near-legendary line "I feel paaaaain...", or her 'thesaurus readings' "I sense discomfort, despair, unhappiness, etc. etc.".

Since the start of the second season, Troi has had 'competition' of sorts in the form of Guinan, played by Whoopi Goldberg (as if you didn't know that either).

Guinan is the ship's Bar-manageress in Ten-Forward. She and Picard go way back and the origin of their special friendship is unknown. Guinan is a centuries-old alien. We know her race has met the Borg and the "Q" and survived. That's no mean feat! From her actions throughout her appearances in TNG, it can be established that she has 'mystical powers', perhaps even 'Q-like' in some aspects. Whilst Troi only senses minds, Guinan's senses reach thru' time and space.

It can be said that Guinan is similar to Doctor Who in regards to her mysterious origin. We did not really know anything about the Doctor until "The War Games" - the second Doctor's last story. In Guinan's case, all we know is that she is possibly from around the J-25 area of space as was mentioned in "Q Who?" As the episodes that feature her go on, we get to know bits more about her from what little information we are given.

Since her first appearance in "The Child", Guinan has been giving advice to various members of the crew, advising Picard during dangerous and tense times ("Best Of Both Worlds"), sensing when 'things are not what they seem' ("Yesterday's Enterprise"), can just about lower herself down to Worf's level on the phaser range ("Redemption") - level 14 is a bit to slow for her, and she has a nice big gun under the bar ("Night Terrors")...well, what sort of bar would it be without the customary weapon?!? Some people would feel more comfortable talking to Guinan instead of Troi. As a certain Doctor once said, "Sometimes, a man will tell his bartender things that he'll never tell his Doctor." ("The Cage", Boyce to Pike). This can apply to Troi and Guinan.

From the start of season two, Troi's part in many episodes amount to a 'large' thirty seconds appearance on-screen. Sometimes she'll have the odd line to say, maybe a few lines IF she is lucky. Guinan, on the other hand, has whole scenes whenever she's on.

There have been a few episodes in which Troi would have had a bigger part to play, such as in the first draft of "The Enemy". In it, Troi was stranded on the planet with Geordi, and had to fight the Romulan survivor. Now, with a phaser I'm sure she would have had a chance, but hand-to-hand combat? Not very likely! Not that I doubt her various abilities, but conjuring up mental images of Troi in hand-to-hand combat is not pleasant. This would have no doubt ruined a perfectly good episode, which, incidentally, is one of my favourite third season ones.

Having seen Guinan at the phaser range convinces me that she could snoot spots of a running leopard. It wouldn't surprise me to find out that Guinan has some sort of 'Q-like' abilities or knows how to fight. She was willing to take on 'Q' in "Q Who?" - I doubt that anyone can see Troi doing the same thing.

One thing I find hard to believe is how many of Guinan's lines used to be Troi's. Obviously they had to be re-written for Guinan, but some of them must have been quite a re-write! If Whoopi Goldberg was available, the writers would re-write possibly a scene or two for Guinan, or give her a new scene. This of course makes you wonder how big a part Troi would have had if Guinan wasn't on the ship in the first place! Obviously some scenes were written exclusively for Guinan, e.g. in "Yesterday's Enterprise" - these would not have worked in Troi's case.

As you all know, the fifth season has already started, and IDIC members Stateside will be well into it by the time this issue reaches them (grrr... hurry up, BBC!) Personally, I feel that there is room for both characters to develop, and I hope that the script writers better utilise Troi in this and the last season (though I'm dreading the episode "Disaster" if rumours I have heard are true. I just hope it isn't as bad as "The Loss". If "The Loss" was an apt title to a script, is "Disaster" also one?)

Well, in true psychiatrist fashion, I'll end with these words - "What do you think?"

FANZINES 1966 - 1991

by Sheila Clark

Star Trek has been with us for 25 years. Star Trek fanzines have been around for almost as long.

Fanzines are not a new phenomenon that arrived with Trek; science fiction fanzines had been around long before 1966, but they were made up of articles, not fiction. It took Star Trek fans to realise - in the reported words of an early American fan - "Hey, we could write this!"

The earliest zines were, of course, American; as we all know, Trek didn't come to Britain until 1969 and it took another year or two before organised fandom arrived. Not that there weren't British writers as long ago as 1969; Jennifer Guttridge was writing back then and submitting her stories to American zines. Unfortunately she never became seriously involved in British fandom, although she did agree to let ScoTpress reprint some of her work (Enterprise Incidents 6 & 7 - now unfortunately out of print) a few years ago.

One of the first zines - if not *the* first - was Ruth Berman's ~-Negative. With a very short page count by today's standards (reduced print eventually 'let Ruth put out zines at around 20 pages) it sold for \$1(!) Ruth printed some of the early Kraith stories and also a series (Dorothy/Myfanwy) written by two authors.

Some of these early stories were devoted to finding wives for Spock and the Dorothy/Myfanwy stories were no exception; one of them got Spock and the other one got McCoy. The names of some of the other 'let's marry Spock off' stories are

known to fandom courtesy of Star Trek Lives; there were a lot of them around in the early days. Even Kraith - probably the archtypal alternate universe zine - was basically a find-Spock-a-wife series - he lost at least three during it! There were a lot of stories plotted for the Kraith series which never actually did see light of zine, and for that I feel the editorial stance must take a lot of responsibility; their stated policy was as follows: the story was read by the editors, and returned with much criticism and a request for a rewrite. If the writer was thick-skinned enough to accept this and did a full rewrite, the same procedure was followed again... and maybe even again! Their claim - their boast, even, stated in one editorial - was that some of their best stories had been rewritten enough that they told a completely different story from the one the writer had originally set out to tell!

There were only a few British zines around until the mid 1970s - STAG's Beta Niobe, STERB's Murasaki Journal, BA's Telemetry. It was after 1975 that zines really 'took off' in this country. We started Log Entries at that time; Alnitah started then; Empathy put out a lot of titles (Emanon, Contact and many very short complete stories - not long enough to be called novels); BA expanded on its zines... to name only some.

Why were there so many zines? Simple. Apart from James Blish's script adaptations and Spock Must Die - and the books of script adaptations took several years to come out - back in the early 70s there was no Trek fiction in print. Even The Making of Star Trek (Whitfield), The World of Star Trek (Gerrold) and The Trouble With Tribbles (Gerrold) were only available as American imports. So - if we wanted to read Trek fiction, we had to write our own.

And we wrote. How we wrote. Many of us wrote originally only for ourselves and perhaps a couple of friends. Janet, who didn't write, twisted the arms of anyone she knew who did - she has a big folder of story manuscripts, many of which have never been printed anywhere. (Thank you, Janet - I think - for without your nagging, encouragement, it would probably never have occurred to me to let anyone else see what I wrote - and I'd have written a lot less!)

Eventually we began submitting stories to the various clubs, since it was mostly the clubs that were putting out the zines. Alnitah was the first independent (ie not put out by a club) title in Britain (in America most zines were independent).

Most of the early zines were duplicated and the legibility varied very much! One or two of the earliest were put out on a spirit duplicator, and while I don't say there are no copies of these still in the collections of long-term zine readers, there can't be many, because spirit duplication doesn't last; exposure to light and air fades the print quite quickly. Stencilled zines printed in ink have the merit of retaining their legibility, but some of them were blotchy and patchy even when new - a great deal depended on how conscientiously the typist cleaned the typewriter keys! (It had to be done at the very least with every stencil to retain a good clean cut.) In my opinion British zines printed by this method tended to be of better quality than their American counterparts; the paper used for the American duplicated zines was thick (something of the consistency of blotting paper) and usually coloured and looked as if it might have been recycled. I never did find out if that paper was used because it was cheaper than white or if that was what was sold in America for duplicating - perhaps one of our American members can tell us. In time, however, most editors went over to getting their zines professionally printed or photocopied.

Eventually fan fiction - always, for some reason, a minority interest - achieved a degree of acceptance in the wider world when Bantam printed The New Voyages, edited by Sondra Marshak and Myrna Culbreath. New Voyages ran to two issues only, and all the authors in them were fan writers; some of the stories had already appeared in zines. Ni Var, for example, had already appeared in Claire Gabriel's Quartet Plus One - the first four stories being Sarek/Amanda ones, with Ni Var the 'Plus One', and it was removed from the zine after being accepted for

New Voyages; subsequent copies of the zine were simply known as "Quartet". (I believe Quartet is now being printed as Quartet Plus Two.)

American zines have, on the whole, been more lavishly illustrated than the British ones. There are several possible reasons for this; Britain has perhaps 2000 active, card-carrying fans; America has ten times that number. The larger number of fans means a larger number of good artists. American fans also seem to be keener on artwork than British fans; artwork sells well in auction in America, but doesn't sell nearly as well in Britain. Most of the British editors write, but I can't think of any who have also been artists; but some of the American editors were artists as well as being writers (or instead of) and set out to produce something that they wanted to be visually attractive (although this sometimes meant the reader paying for a lot of white, unused space). British editors mostly went for a more functional layout that didn't waste space.

In the early days of zine production, some of the American editors took subscriptions. Unfortunately this meant their pricing zines well ahead of production, and one or two of them ran into financial problems when costs rose quite sharply. No zine editor today that I know of takes subscriptions. Some of them also ran into problems with their printers; one I can think of took her printer to court twice, won her case both times and still didn't manage to get either the printed zines or the masters back. She stopped putting out zines.

Many American editors need pre-orders to finance the printing of the zine. This sometimes means a lengthy delay between the reader ordering and receiving a zine.

Some of the American editors also proved less than efficient about filling orders - indeed, the Americans tend to be used to waiting months for an order to be filled! On the other hand there are several editors who are always on time, efficient and a pleasure to deal with.

Over the years there have been two editors (that I know of) who for one reason or another ran into such financial difficulties that they simply absconded; one just vanished (in her case the zine was printed but the printer wouldn't give it to her without payment in full - and she couldn't pay it until she sold more copies than she had pre-orders for) while the other did publish an apology (while out of work, she had used the pre-order payments for food) before disappearing.

Some editors, especially in America, put out one issue of their zine a year. Others put out two, three, four or even more, depending on how many submissions they get and how large a zine they publish.

To the best of my knowledge, Australia started putting out zines a year or two after Britain. Australia's two best-known zines (at least for non-Australians) are Beyond Antares and SPOCK. (I believe the title SPOCK was originally an acronym for Society for the Protection Of Captain Kirk.) While I've read some issues of both I don't claim to know much about Australian zines - all I will say is that although many of the stories have been excellent, it was in an Australian zine that I came across what has to be the worst example of a Mary Sue story that I have ever read.

It has long been said that there are only about 6 basic plots in all of fiction, and everything that is written has to be a variation on one of these. I've already mentioned the get-Spock-married story; Mary Sue is a variety of this (though some are better written than others). Basically, Mary Sue is usually young (very young), beautiful, brilliant and beloved by whoever the writer's favourite character happens to be. She is the writer's alter ego (and yes, there have been male Mary Sue stories too - it's just that nobody has actually come up with a definitive name for them.) Everyone writes at least one Mary Sue story at some time (usually early in their writing career); the sensible ones realise what they've done and quietly burn it or rework it so that it's less obvious; the less sensible ones submit it somewhere - and will often find an editor who likes it; the least sensible can't find an editor to print it so they print it themselves... and

get quite a shock when they discover that putting out a zine isn't as easy as they thought it would be! At one time there were a lot of Mary-Sue stories about 20th century girls somehow ending up on the Enterprise - in what I thought was one of the best of that kind the heroine was 50-ish, plump, not in love with anyone in the crew and went into Security!

There are also zines in languages other than English, some of them containing stories translated from English that first appeared in British zines. To our certain knowledge, zines have been put out in German, Italian and French, and these might be of interest to people in Britain who are learning one of these languages. There may be more in other languages. Perhaps fans from other countries would care to comment on the availability of zines in their native languages? (Even some Russians are now in touch with us. They are science fiction fans who don't know Star Trek, but they're interested in finding out!)

'Adult' zines made their appearance with Grup in America, shortly followed by R & R in America and eventually by Grope in Britain. These early adult zines were purely heterosexual; however, in the late 70s Gerry Downes in Alaska dipped a toe in the water of homosexuality with a very short zine in which Kirk and Spock found themselves bonded and deliberately chose to break the bond, and after that a number of editors, mostly in America, set out to produce zines known variously as K/S or 'slash', with varying degrees of descriptiveness. Not that the theme itself was new; K/S stories were written as far back as 1970, in Britain as well as America, but back then they were 'under the counter', so to speak. K/S editors do their best to ensure that only adults who know what they're getting buy their zines.

A lot of titles, well-known in their day, have stopped publication over the years, for varying reasons. There have been two stated attitudes among fans - FIAWOL and FIJAGH; Fandom Is A Way Of Life and Fandom Is Just A Goddam Hobby. Some of the editors found mundane reality interfering with their fannish activities (ie family commitments took over); some, having belonged to the FIAWOL school for a number of years, found their interest waning - they'd 'burned out' and while they may have retained an interest in Trek, they decided to GAFIATE (Get Away From It All); some moved on to become active in other fandoms, especially in the hiatus between 1972 - 1980 when it didn't seem as if we'd ever get any new Trek.

As far as I know, ScoTpress's Enterprise - Log Entries is the longest-running Trek zine around today, with more issues out than any other zine has managed. It started life as a 30-page zine - the first issue was a limited edition of 100 copies and sold for 50p including postage! By issue 6 it had gone up to 60 pages, and somewhere around issue 64 it increased in length again, to approximately 100 pages where it has remained.

There are fewer new Trek zines around today, however. Sales are lower than they used to be; partly because of the number of second hand zines around, but mostly, I think, because we are no longer dependent on zines for Trek fiction (though many of the professional novels are instantly forgettable). There are still new writers sending in Classic Trek stories; it's true that some of them are 'recycling' ideas that were told fifteen years ago, but these ideas are new to them - the zines these plots were originally published in are long out of print - and the development is different.

TNG has also brought a spate of new writers, as well as rejuvenating some of the 'older' writers who felt they had written everything they could in Classic Trek.

Readers tend to like those writers who see the characters the same way they do. Some writers seem to find it difficult to write certain characters; some writers manage to develop and strengthen certain of the minor characters we don't learn much about in aired Trek. Some writers are very prolific; some only write one or two stories before apparently running out of ideas. Some writers enjoy developing alternate universes, exploring 'what ifs' that take the characters in other directions than they take in aired Trek; some stick strictly with the

parameters given in aired Trek. Everyone, however, is writing inside their own Trek universe according to how they see the characters and relationships.

Gene did not necessarily agree with the way some writers saw his characters, but he applauded the initiative that encouraged them to write, and I'm quite sure he was delighted when people who began as fan writers (Jacqueline Lichtenberg, Jean Lorrain, Howard Weinstein and Clare Bell, to name but four) began to make a career for themselves as professional writers.

Perhaps the best memorial we can give him is to keep on writing.

THE TALE OF A LONELY TREKKER - OR MY SEARCH FOR FANDOM

by Kari Spindler

First Encounter

The first Star Trek episode I ever saw was 'The Lights of Zetar'. After that - I was hooked. This happened back in the early seventies, when ST was first shown in Germany. Having no TV set at home, I had to pester my Auntie every Saturday so she would let me watch my favourite show; usually I succeeded.

Back then ST meant action adventure and fun to me. This can be blamed to some extent on the bad dubbing and the radical cuts ST suffered on German TV and partly on my immaturity which was to blame for this misconception. I also experienced my first serious crush. At the tender age of twelve, I was hopelessly in love with Captain Kirk.

I started collecting pictures and every bit of information I could find, pasting them lovingly into a scrapbook. I still have it. Later, when I had my own TV, I eagerly watched the reruns, never missing an episode. Then came the animations; I wasn't too keen on them, but they were better than nothing.

The Trekless Years

No Trek on TV! What a nightmare for a fan. All my friends had liked Trek well enough, but none shared my love and loyalty for it. No-one around me was another Trekker in the making. I was alone and still obsessed with Trek. I had to put up with a lot of blank looks or teasing whenever I brought up the subject. Everybody thought I was crazy and they didn't have the foggiest of what I was talking about. So what was a lonely Trekker to do, to survive? I read and re-read my James Blish novels of the TV episodes till they fell to pieces. It just wasn't enough anymore. I turned to writing my own Trek stories. I cringe every time I read them now. They are terrible, very melodramatic and a lot like the Mills and Boon type love stories I wrote at that time as well. But it was all I had, writing it down which kept the dream alive.

The arrival of the first Trek movie filled me with great joy. Unfortunately, I never got to see it at that time. Either our local cinema didn't show it, or I was away on holiday when they did. For some reason or other I have never managed to see a ST movie at the cinema yet. I'm determined to make it for ST VI.

Strange New Worlds

By the time "The Wrath of Khan" came to the cinemas, my life had undergone a complete change and ST was temporarily put on a back burner. During a holiday in Spain I had fallen deeply in love with an Englishman. I was faced with a major decision and I moved to England to be with him. It was a big step but I have no regrets. I loved it. I settled into my new life.

When the BBC repeated some ST, I saw for the first time the real Trek. This was so different from what I had seen before! I watched in great wonder. This was so much more than just action adventure. The complexity of the friendship between Kirk, Spock and McCoy revealed itself to me. These characters were so different and the whole tone of the show was more serious and adult. These people were willing to sacrifice their lives, their careers for each other. The Kirk in the German version of 'Amok Time', had not been willing to disobey orders and take Spock to Vulcan. He just told McCoy to try some new experimental drug on Spock, to save his life. Pon Farr was never mentioned, that scene was cut out completely. Everything that happened on Vulcan was part of a nightmare Spock had, as a result of the drugs. This is Star Trek - not Dallas for goodness sake! If you would like to know more about the 'treatment' ST got on German TV, let me know. It is one of my pet hates, but maybe you already know all about it from other German fans. Now ST had become good drama and it showed me a brighter and better future. Maybe we will get there - some day. *[Janet: We have printed some articles about Star Trek on German TV although our new members won't have seen these.]*

I became also aware of the IDIC philosophy and I tried to become more tolerant, failing miserably sometimes. After all I'm only human. My love for ST had matured and there still were a lot of new things to discover. As I had only seen 50 odd episodes, now I watched Trek I had never seen before.

Still it wasn't enough - I wanted more. I knew there was a Fandom out there - somewhere. I'd heard there were conventions and fan clubs, but where? How could I find out, how could I reach them? They might as well have been in another Galaxy.

I Search For Trek

It's hard to explain, but in the latter part of 1990 something strange happened to me. Suddenly a fairly passive fan turned into an active Trekkie. All things seemed to be happening at once. There was the arrival of Star Trek: TNG, which I didn't like at first, but I gave it a chance. My patience was rewarded, it got better and now I like it a lot. It can never replace 'old' Trek for me - that will always be my first love. But ST:TNG is improving all the time and it stands on its own.

Fed up with the BBC for not showing any 'old' Trek I went out and bought the videos - the lot. The poor shop-assistant nearly fainted when he saw me piling stack after stack of tapes onto the counter. He looked rather pale. "Do you like Star Trek then?" he managed to say - ask a silly question! I had to fight off yet another assistant, who tried to take the tapes away from me. He thought they were for restocking the shelves.

Now I discovered even more episodes I hadn't seen before, like 'Miri', 'Conscience of the King', 'The Empath' and many others. The best find was 'City On The Edge of Forever'. Can you believe it? I had been a fan for nearly 20 years and only now I discovered my all-time favourite episode, up till then it had been 'The Enemy Within'.

Thanks to my Auntie, I could afford to buy the tapes. On a previous visit to Germany, she had given me a rather generous amount of money, advising me to invest it wisely. Boy, did I invest it! The best investment I ever made. Thank you, Auntie. I know this wasn't what you had in mind, but you made me a very happy fan.

On my next outing to Manchester I came across the ST novels. I hadn't even known they existed and now I found so many. Why did nobody ever tell me? Why did my local book store never sell any? Even in Manchester, it's hard enough to track them down, usually hidden away in a dark corner or out of reach on the top shelf - that is, if they have any at all. It's their loss, I'm getting them through mail order now. The postage costs less than a trip to Manchester.

To Boldly Go

It was sheer coincidence that I picked up Starburst Magazine during my weekly shopping trip around the supermarket. That was the breakthrough. What a treasure trove! All this information about conventions, fan clubs, Trek merchandise - it was amazing. Still it took me until the end of August 1991 to finally take the plunge and go to a con. The thought of spending a weekend alone in a hotel located in a strange city, meeting a few hundred total strangers made me hesitate. So I waited and registered for Conduit in Manchester. As I live close by, I didn't have to stay in the hotel overnight. Still, the taxi fares cost me a fortune and I hardly got any sleep.

On the big day, proudly displaying my Trek pin, I walked into the hotel lobby, filled with anticipation. I felt a little lost as it was early and everything was still in chaos, with people arriving and checking in. I met Margaret, who looked even more lost and bewildered than me - it was her first con too. She was waiting for a friend who hadn't shown up yet. Soon we found our bearings, got our con patches and programmes. We went went downstairs to watch some TNG - 'The Best of Both Worlds 1 & 2' which were excellent. After a while Margaret left to find her friend. I never saw her again. I hope you enjoyed your first con as much as I did, Margaret. Later I bumped into Stephen and Barry in one of the hallways. We had a chat, then I explored, finding out where everything was, stopping now and then to chat to some people.

I saw a lot of Stephen and Barry during the weekend and we still keep in touch. Barry introduced me to IDIC and let me borrow one of your newsletters, not that I got much of a chance to read it. I was far too busy through the weekend, but I liked what I saw and decided to join IDIC as well. Here I am! Are you sure you still want me? After boring you to death with all this stuff.

Back to the con. I met a lot of people and made some new friends. I even met a girl from Germany. It was like a homecoming; the hotel full of strangers I had dreaded turned out to be a house full of friends. It felt like being part of a big family. Now I belonged - finally - after all these lonely years; I had found people who shared my love of Trek. It was such a relief, just being able to talk to some fellow fans. For me it was the highlight of the con, just to talk.

The running programmes were excellent and the guest speakers were very good. To be honest, I've never heard of them before, but now I know! Guy Vardaman showed us slides from the new TNG season and from Star Trek VI. Carel Struycken seemed a little shy. He talked about his part as Mr. Homn, his work with Jack Nicholson on 'The Witches of Eastwick' and about the new 'Addams Family' film. Barrie Ingham was great; he is a very funny man, and in great style he talked about his time on the TNG set, when he guest starred in 'Up the Long Ladder'. He explained the differences of working in the States and in the British film industry. He had us all laughing over some hilarious anecdotes involving other actors he had worked with in the British Theatre.

But still the talking was the best thing for me, like a flood valve being released after all this time. Don't think I only talked about Trek all weekend, we talked of a lot of other things too - including flea breeding in Outer Mongolia.

This con gave me back a lot of confidence and a much needed boost to my dampened spirit, having just gone through the painful break up of the nine year relationship I had with my Englishman. I had been rather depressed. I was facing an uncertain future. I'm planning on moving back to Germany, but I'm not afraid any more. I walk proudly with my head held high. I will make it. Things are looking up, I've already found a flat and there is the possibility of a job. The German girl I met at the con has promised to introduce me to Fandom in Germany. I can hardly wait.

I even started to write again, a Trek novel of course - my first attempt at writing in English. My grammar may let me down sometimes, not to mention my

spelling mistakes, but I'm enjoying myself. If nothing else, it will certainly improve my English. Who knows, maybe some day it will be good enough to get published as a fanzine. There are always possibilities.

ENTERPRISE CREW WORDSEARCH

by Alex. Pidd

D S P C G M I R B R E H S U R C
A R U H U S C H E K K R U N D R
M E L E P U L C S C I U L A I U
A S A K E L D V O O H H T K K S
C I S O L N O P B Y D A T S E H
W R K T A Y S R I W A R P H R E
O P I R I A I O V C O R U E S R
R R R O I E G R O F A L L U L W
F E R E N K R E K I R R L M C O
T T O C S I A Y E P A U D Y R O
E N P I C R D H H H N W O R U R
E E N A N I U G C R B G K I R T

Picard	Kirk
Riker	Spock
Crusher B	McCoy
Crusher W	Uhura
Data	Sulu
Guinan	Rand
Troi	Chekov
La Forge	Scott
Yar	Chapel
Pulaski	
OBrien	
Worf	

The name of the ship in which they serve may also be found.

Solution on page: 78

WHO SAID THAT?

A New Year quiz by Helen White

Can you identify the characters from the following quotations? They are all from original Trek.

1. "You can't change the laws of physics!"
2. "Tellarites do not argue for reasons; they simply argue."
3. "Intuition, however illogical, is recognised as a command prerogative."
4. "There was persecution on Earth once; I remember reading about it in my history class."
5. "Only a fool fights in a burning house."
6. "I have never understood the female capacity to avoid a direct answer to any question."
7. "A lie is a very poor way to say hello."
8. "Oh, how absolutely typical of your species! You don't understand something, so you become fearful."
9. "May the Great Bird of the galaxy bless your planet."
10. "In our century, we've learned not to fear words."
11. "Well, whad'ya know! I finally got the last word!"

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION EPISODE REVIEWS

SKIN OF EVIL Episode No. 23 Prod No. 122. Teleplay by Joseph Stefano & Hannah Louise Shearer, Story by Joseph Stefano. Synopsis by Sheila Clark.
US Satellite Uplink Date 23/4/88. BBC 2 screening 6/3/91.

Troi has been away to a conference, and is returning by shuttlecraft. The shuttle runs into difficulties and crashes on Vagra 2.

Once they discover the crashed shuttle, an away team of Riker, Data, Crusher and Yar beams down to rescue the crew. They are prevented from reaching the shuttle by a black oily slick that appears to be sentient. It contains a creature called Armus, who kills Yar for no reason. The away team beams back but Yar cannot be revived.

The away team, augmented by La Forge, beams down again, but Armus toys with them, pulling Riker into the slick.

Troi has managed to communicate with Armus, learning that it has been alone on the planet for untold years - it consists of the baser instincts of a race that left to explore the galaxy. Armus is lonely, angry, and seeks to entertain itself by torturing the away team. Even that bores it, however.

Worf, as acting Head of Security, and Wesley discover that when Armus is angry it seems to lose control of the force field it is maintaining around the area.

Picard beams down, telling Worf to beam the away team back as soon as possible; Armus returns Riker and allows Picard to see and speak to Troi, while the rest of the away team beam home.

Picard continues to anger Armus and the forcefield weakens until it becomes possible to beam Picard, Troi and the shuttle pilot home. They destroy the remains of the shuttlecraft so that Armus cannot use it to escape from the planet, and Picard declares the planet off limits to the Federation.

Yar has recorded a final message to be given to certain members of the crew; her holographic image bids them each farewell.

Comments:

David Cameron: Well, as disappointments in Star Trek go, Skin of Evil has to be one of the biggest. What an anticlimax! What an embarrassing death for Tasha Yar - imagine being killed by a talking oil slick called Armus! She didn't even die heroically - 15 minutes in and zap! She's dead! Couldn't she have died battling Armus in an attempt to help Troi? That would at least have been a bit better, even if it did still mean Yar got the chop from a pool of black paint. Honestly, what a silly way to die...

On the plus side for this awful episode was the funeral scene at the end - at least Skin of Evil had one redeeming quality in showing that TNG's characters really do have feelings after all.

Ann Peters: The standard of TNG effects is usually so high that the dreadful 'skin' came as quite a surprise; it is far worse than anything the low-budgeted original series ever had to suffer. Is it an inkblot? Is it a pool of tar? Or is it a man in a silly costume? The combination of all three just wasn't convincing.

But despite the awful slickblotmonster I like the episode. The idea of a concentration of evil is interesting and I enjoy the way it taunts the crew and its final confrontation with Picard. Portraying external control is not easy, but the particular way it was done when Armus was controlling Data is a pleasure to watch. I knew that Yar was going to be polished off, but it took me by surprise that it happened so early in the proceedings. And surely no-one can say there are no crew

relationships in *this* episode.

I like Yar's farewell comments to Picard and Worf, but some of the others were a bit contrived: I can only remember Riker making her laugh in Angel One and then she was laughing *at* him. I understand they filmed Tasha saying 'It did happen' to Data but thank goodness they didn't use it. She could, perhaps, have apologised to him for possibly hurting him, but to tell him it happened when both he and the audience already know perfectly well it did, would have been trite in the extreme.

So Tasha exits the series... and immediately becomes a device for the development of Data; it's sad that she is more use to him dead than alive. That final scene was beautifully constructed. The idea of Data crying a single milky tear was fortunately rejected and we are simply left with him having to come to terms with a new and difficult experience.

And so ends the experiment with a female Security Chief. I didn't always like what Denise Crosby did with the part, but her departure has left an enormous gap in the regular cast. The token Klingon who had nothing much to do really was the obvious choice to replace her, but there remains a great need for a woman wearing either mustard or wine, and the powers at TNG are showing no signs of doing anything about it. Perhaps if they'd originally used a Klingon female as Security Chief, we would still have a female in the command structure of the Enterprise.

Edward Woo: Skin of Evil is the episode where Tasha Yar is killed in the line of duty. Her character will be missed, and Yar, I believe, is the only one that got close enough to Worf. Worf may feel isolated now. Her death was quick, which left the rest of the bridge crew with no time to think. If her death had been a drawn-out battle it would have distracted the crew from giving their full abilities to rescuing the shuttlecraft personnel. There was time enough when everyone was safe to give thoughts about Yar.

The oil slick named Armus is a splendid character of evil. Its physical appearance makes it look evil and its actions to the Enterprise crew prove it is. My compliments go to Jonathan Frakes for having the courage to be dragged into and covered by the black slick for this story.

At the memorial service, Lt. Yar's final message of "No goodbyes. Just good memories. Hailing frequencies closed," is a fitting finish. Even better was Data's brief remark about "How empty it will feel without her presence." Data must be more Human than is recognised as he has had a feeling for her loss.

WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE PARIS Episode No. 24 Prod No. 124. Written by Deborah Dean Davis & Hannah Louise Shearer. Synopsis by Sheila Clark.
US Satellite Uplink Date 30/4/88. BBC 2 screening .

En route for shore leave, the crew of the Enterprise suddenly lives through a brief loop in time. They then pick up a distress call from Paul Manheim, a scientist who has been studying and experimenting in 'non-linear' time.

They head for Vandor 4, where Manheim is based, and rescue him and his wife Jenice - an old girl friend of Picard's. Picard had run out on her twenty-two years before, afraid that his involvement with her might damage his career.

The loop is not a one-off occurrence; it happens again, and Picard, Riker and Data, who have just entered a turbolift, see themselves coming along the corridor to enter, it repeating the conversation they have just had.

Manheim is very ill - the result of his experiments, which have opened a 'window' into another dimension. It is essential that this 'window' be closed - the time looping is spreading out over the galaxy. However, he manages to give them the co-ordinates to permit them to beam down to his laboratory in order to close the 'window'. This can be done by using some anti-matter.

Picard decides that only Data should go, feeling that he is best able to cope with the disorientation of being in three places at once - where he is, where he was and where he will be. He - three of him - resolves the problem of which of them is the correct incarnation by all three dropping their container of anti-matter at the same time, and the hole between dimensions is patched.

With the hole sealed Manheim recovers, and decides to return in order to continue his experiments; and Jenice chooses to go with him, having resolved with Picard her twenty-two year long anger at having been abandoned by him.

Comments:

Sheila Clark - my main objection to this episode is really little more than a quibble. Although I know the actress was around in the sixties and therefore has to be into her forties, Jenice *looked* far, far too young to have been a young adult twenty two years previously; to me she looked nearer twenty-five than forty. She had not, after all, led a totally happy life; deserted by Picard, neglected by her husband who was too engrossed in his experiments to remember, half the time, that he had a wife, living on a world which appeared to be less than hospitable... and she still managed to look like a dolly bird who had stepped straight out of the pages of Vogue!

Edward Woo: We'll Always Have Paris is an excellent episode that brings Captain Picard to relive a moment from the past with a friend, now Jenice Manheim. I wonder if we will see her again, as she is lovely.

The secondary story concerns the tear in the time fabric caused by Dr. Manheim's experiments. The real-time *deja vu* scenes were good, however a few more of them with increasing severity as the Enterprise neared Vador 4 could have given the story more tension, with the crew finding increasing difficulty with the jumps in time forward and back.

The line said by Picard to Data as being indispensable, making Data too valuable to lose, has a similar theme in classic Trek, where Spock is considered to be the best Science Officer/second in command in Starfleet. Data is unique, being the only android, and Spock a half Human, half Vulcan officer is also unique.

In an old N/L someone wrote that Dr. Crusner was more worried about her rival Jenice than trying to save the life of Dr. Paul Manheim. Even if she was concerned, Counselor Troi did help to clear up the matter, so I believe it would not have clouded her judgement. Despite this I don't think any Starfleet Medical Facility would have saved Dr. Manheim, as the cause was not medical. Only when the tear in time was repaired did Dr. Manheim completely recover.

Just a comment that the title of this episode seems to come from the film Casablanca, when Bogart said these words to Ingrid Bergman as she departed for the plane. This episode to me seemed to resemble some of the atmosphere of this film between Captain Picard and Jenice Manheim.

Ann Peters: This is not Picard's best episode. The towel slapping session was quite out of character and is immediately followed by the even worse spectacle of Picard discussing personal matters in front of the whole bridge crew. I'm sure everyone except Data was cringing with embarrassment. And then he comes out with that memorable phrase 'light years away, maybe ever further'. Without a specific number of light years, a comparison is meaningless.

I do like the episode, though. I like the interaction between Riker and Data when Picard is confronted by his old love; the glimpse we catch of the softer side of Picard when Jenice lets him know she sees through him; the reactions when three people meet themselves a few seconds ago; and the whole episode has a wonderful atmosphere, largely created by the music sound track. But I'm still not sure what body function Data was referring to!

The lines given to Beverly make the fans' speculation of a Picard/Crusher

relationship entirely reasonable. I think that Picard has lost a lot by not having much of a relationship with anyone on the Enterprise, whereas Riker and Troi, for example, have both benefitted from the interplay between them.

Would the Enterprise computer really be able to recreate a particular place on a particular day in history on the holodeck? I wonder what difference it would have made if Picard had chosen April 8th or April 10th. I presume the upside down milking machine being lovingly fondled in the background was the source of music in the Cafe Des Artistes. And I'll bet Julian Clary has already got one of those on his Christmas list!

CONSPIRACY Episode No. 25 Prod No. 125. Teleplay by Tracy Torme, Story by Robert Sabaroff. Synopsis by Sheila Clark. US Satellite Uplink Date 7/5/88. BBC 2 screening .

While en route to Pacifica, the Enterprise picks up a Code 47 message from Captain Walker Keel, an old friend of Picard's. This code is Captain's eyes only, and Keel asks Picard to beam down to Dytallix B where he meets up with Keel and two other Captains - Rixx and Scott, who has made Captain younger than anyone else in Starfleet history. Once satisfied that Picard is who he is supposed to be, Keel warns him of a conspiracy involving the upper ranks of Starfleet.

Picard is doubtful, but when Keel's ship is destroyed he takes the Enterprise back to Earth.

There he beams down to speak to certain senior officers, Admirals Savar, Aaron and Quinn (who we met in Coming of Age). It soon transpires, however, that all three are in the conspiracy; and so is Scott, one of the Captains Keel had trusted. They invite Picard to a meal, while Quinn beams up to the Enterprise taking with him a strange parasite, intending to 'infect' Crusher with it.

Riker and Worf fight Quinn, but it takes Beverly Crusher with a phaser to put him down. She takes the unconscious Quinn and Riker to sickbay and tries to warn Picard; she finds something - a sort of gill - poking out of Quinn's neck - a parasite has taken over his brain, but needs to breathe.

Sitting at a table with a bowl of mealworms in front of him, there is little Picard can do, and when Riker arrives with a gill poking out of his neck it seems that all is lost. Riker is only faking it, however, and knocks out the infected personnel. As they lose consciousness, the creatures flee from their bodies. Picard and Riker follow one and it leads them to Remmick (also seen in Coming of Age), who swallows it. His neck begins to pulse and they realise that he is the 'senior' host; his body has been taken over by the 'mother' creature. They kill him and with the death of the mother creature, all the remaining parasites disappear.

The mother creature, however, managed to send off a message before Remmick's death...

Comments:

Sheila Clark: Why didn't the parasite leave Quinn's body when he was rendered unconscious? Because it had nowhere to go? That was something of an inconsistency.

As expected, the Beeb did make some cuts. In the original, more was made of Remmick swallowing the creature; and after he was killed, a shot of his headless and pretty well chestless body was also shown. I'm not sure if there were any other cuts; there may have been another short one during the 'meal' when Riker was 'eating'. (We were told at one con that Jonathan Frakes did in fact accidentally swallow a couple of the mealworms.)

Knowledge of this episode rather spoiled Coming of Age for me when the Beeb showed it. Quinn was claiming a conspiracy then; so was Remmick, who was host to

the original parasite, already infected?

Edward Woo: Conspiracy is an episode which I really enjoyed at a con. However, it was marred by its recent showing on TV. The final scenes of Remmick's dissolving body were missing. I've seen this missing segment and it's not that untasteful; I have seen far worse on TV.

The good elements were that we saw a female Captain, and an alien one, from Starfleet ships. The story has familiarities to The Invasion of the Body Snatchers where outward appearance would be the same but inwards it would be different; this time it was a lack of memory. These parasites remind me of Alpha Ceti eels, but even more distasteful, going into the mouth and not the ear.

The use of the blue horn-like protrusion on the neck of Riker to use as camouflage was good but I think Riker played being 'one of them' a bit too much. He could have done it more subtly. That food did look distasteful even though it was probably highly nutritious.

A question to ask is, would Riker have agreed with Picard? If Data had not produced evidence that a clandestine operation was happening in Starfleet, I think Riker would have gone along with Captain Picard through loyalty and a sense of certainty that Picard is not easily fooled or would make a hasty decision.

Ann Peters: I enjoyed this episode when I saw it on video, but the castrated TV version went off like a damp squib. Doesn't the BBC have any idea of how much all those effects must have cost!

It was wonderful to see the bridge crew chatting and joking with each other in the opening scene and such a shame it didn't happen a little more during the first season. Picard has to be absent for it to work, of course, and he didn't leave the bridge very often in those days. I did go off Worf, though, when he showed his disgust for bathing. It's hard enough to get little boys to wash as it is, without their TV heroes actually encouraging them to hate baths.

I was very disappointed to see the Vulcan neck-pinch fail. I always thought it was so quick it couldn't possibly get wrong, but maybe Spock was just very good at it. Geordi being flung through those doors was spectacular and it was great to see Bev come to the rescue. Does she always take her phaser along to a medical emergency, I wonder? All the parasites suddenly disappear, we are told, because the mother creature is killed. So how was it keeping them all going while it was alive? Was it really controlling all those parasites in all those Humans on all those Federation outposts? Wow - that's some communication system it must have had.

The ship would seem to have a Science Officer after all, but who is it? Was there perhaps a hint that it might be Data? Otherwise, why wouldn't the alien bug have liked the Science Officer? Maybe the episode was written when no-one was too sure exactly who was what. I mean, it was only episode 25, and they still hadn't quite decided what Geordi was.

Surely Data running in front of the camera was a mistake. I wish they'd edited out that particular part of the scene - it was hardly crucial to the plot. Then, perhaps, they might have had room to include Jonathan Frakes' maggot swallowing masterpiece.

Answers to Who Said That?

1.Scotty (The Naked Time), 2.Sarek (Journey to Babel), 3.Kirk (Obsession), 4.Chekov (Let That be Your Last Battlefield), 5.Kang (Day of the Dove), 6.Spock (This Side of Paradise), 7.Edith Keeler(The City on the Edge of Forever), 8.Trelane (The Squire of Gothos), 9.Sulu (The Man Trap), 10.Uhura (The Savage Curtain), 11.McCoy (Journey to Babel)

Solution to WordSearch

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D S P C G M I R E R S H S U R C
A R P H U S C H E K K R U N D R
M E L E P U L S S G I U L A I U
A S A K E L D V M P H T K K S
C I S O L N O N B Y D A T S E E
W R K T A Y S R I W A R R H R E
O P I N I A L O V E O R U A S E
K R R O T E G R O F A L L E L W
F E E N K R E K I R R E M C O
T F O G G I A Y E P A U Y R O
E N P I C R D H H H N W O R U R
E E N A N I U G C R B G K I R T

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BOOK & VIDEO REVIEWS

STAR TREK VI - THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY by J M Dillard Pocket \$4.99

Reviewed by Sheila Clark

SPOILER ALERT! If you have not seen the movie and don't want to know about it beforehand, read no further!

The story is set a fair while after the other movies; Kirk and McCoy are within 3 months of retiring and several of the other 'regulars' are planning to go at the same time. Sulu, however, has his own command: the Excelsior.

The Klingon moon of Praxis has exploded, thus depriving the Klingon Empire of its main source of dilithium. As a result, it is estimated that the Klingon Empire can last for only some 50 more years. Chancellor Gorkon of the Klingon Empire feels that peace with the Federation is the best hope for the Klingons, and it is arranged that the Enterprise will escort Gorkon's ship to the talks.

Kirk is less than happy with the mission - he hates the Klingons and is inclined to say "Let them die"; he can never forgive them for the death of his son.

Gorkon is someone he could like, however. Unfortunately, the Klingon ship is attacked and Gorkon fatally injured; and even the Enterprise's computer says that the fatal attack was launched by the Enterprise. Kirk and McCoy beam aboard Gorkon's ship but McCoy is unable to save Gorkon. Both men are arrested.

At their trial, they are condemned to life imprisonment (with hard labour). They find an apparent ally however, who leads them outside the prison forcefield; from there, the Enterprise rescues them. But by now they have enough evidence that someone wants the peace initiative to fail. They must get to the talks in time to save the life of the new Chancellor and let the talks succeed.

All in all, I enjoyed this book, which I read before seeing the movie. I'd had reservations about the movie from some of what had been leaked, but it sounded like the sort of story I could accept and live with. I do find Kirk's attitude a little out of character; granted, he had fought the Klingons all his life, but it was Kirk who said to the Eminians "We're not going to kill today". I don't think he would have blamed a whole race for the actions of one man. He's not that petty.

I also find the composition of the conspiracy a little hard to swallow - Federation, Klingon and Romulan officers conspiring together to continue the status quo of war and hatred.

Having said that, however, I found it relatively easy to suspend disbelief and accept the story for what it was: a reasonable attempt at forging the friendship between Federation and Klingons foretold by the Organians.

UNIFICATION by Jeri Taylor Pocket Books \$4.99.
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

SPOILER ALERT! This is the story of the two-part fifth season TNG episode. If you haven't seen it and don't want to know anything about it beforehand, read no further!

Spock has been seen on Romulus - an unauthorised visit - and there are fears that he might have defected.

Picard visits Vulcan to see if Sarek - now almost completely senile from Bendii's syndrome - has any knowledge of why Spock should be on Romulus. Sarek gives him the name Pardek, someone Spock had met at Khitomer during the peace talks between Federation and Klingons, when the Romulans had also been represented (See Star Trek VI).

Picard persuades Gowron to let him - and Data - take passage on a cloaked Klingon ship to Romulus, where he hopes to find Spock and discover why the Vulcan is there. The trip is far from pleasant - the Klingon Captain resents the duty - but on Romulus Picard duly meets Spock.

It transpires that there is a pacifist movement on Romulus which would like to see Romulus reunified with Vulcan. Pardek - a minor member of the government - is a sympathiser and has managed to organise a meeting between the pacifists and Neral, the young proconsul.

As a novel, this hangs well together; it's well paced and interesting, Spock's motivation is admirable - whether he is just doing 'the logical thing' or sees himself as the Romulan Surak, of course, is impossible to say, but the story gives hope for the eventual inclusion of Romulus in a united, peaceful galaxy... if we discount the Ferengi, the Borg and any other warlike races that may appear in the future.

Well worth buying.

I have now seen the episode and there are some scenes (set on Romulus) in the book which are not in the episode. A pity, as I think they would have filmed well and added to the dramatic importance of Spock's decision. Of course, probably the only feasible way to add them in would have been to make the story a 3-parter, as there is already a lot happening in the second half of the story.

UNIFICATION by Jeri Taylor Pocket Books £3.99; P&P from At The Sign of the Dragon. Reviewed by Christine Snow

My friend Frances was one of the 250 lucky ones who were at the recent Leonard Nimoy convention where Leonard himself was the main guest. They were treated to a preview of the double episode of ST:TNG, Unification. Frances didn't tell me much, not wanting to spoil it for me when the BBC eventually showed it. However, she did say that it was probably the best story she'd seen... and it linked up with the new film, ST VI. I couldn't wait, so I read the book.

Jeri Taylor's portrayal of Sarek is believable, as are all the main Enterprise D characters. There are many references to Next Gen. episodes, some of which have not yet been shown by the BBC; but I've seen Sarek and Yesterday's Enterprise [now available on video] and although these and others put this story in context, I'm sure it's not necessary to have seen them, as Mr (Ms?) Taylor explains any necessary detail. (However, these explanations may spoil it for the episodes if you've not yet seen them.)

The portrayal of Spock at first seemed very superficial. This may have been because so much else was going on - Riker and the piano player, Troi and the young security officer, Riker and the fat man (a rare chance to see Worf smile), Picard disguised with Data, the Klingon commander's shoulder, the boy D'Tan and his fellow

aliens - but gradually Spock emerges, not as his younger self from the Classic series but rather he has matured, is more purposeful, determined, committed... indeed, very similar to how he was in ST:TMP. In many ways his situation is similar, and thus his reason for doing things.

To tell you any of the substance of the story would possibly spoil it for you, but let me assure you that by the very last subchapter a very moving, exciting, surprising yet sad and lovely adventure, love, spy, story on an intragalactic scale is completed. It brought me to tears. The ending is so right for the Spock that I know and love, who without, and possibly because of, James Kirk has gone out to do their style of 'cowboy diplomacy' by himself. Maybe the Enterprise Incident or even Balance of Terror had something to do with it. Who knows? But Spock takes, yet again, an equivalent of the KM test because "the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the one".

If McCoy is still alive and reads Picard's report, he will know that now at least Spock is not afraid of living (Bread and Circuses). Indeed, he has the very best reasons to live long.

As for the references to ST VI - well, they're there, but I'll wait until February and find out at the cinema, and I'll look forward to the double episode of Next Gen. to be shown... eventually.

PERCHANCE TO DREAM by Howard Weinstein Pocket TNG 19 \$4.99
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

On what should be a routine visit to Domarus IV, a planet with no known sapient life, an Enterprise shuttle with Troi, Data, Wesley and two other teenage aspirants to the Academy is first held captive by a Teniran ship then disappears. The Tenirans, who claim the planet, deny having anything to do with the disappearance.

Then Picard disappears from the bridge, and finds himself on the planet along with the Teniran Captain Arit. In addition, it transpires that there *is* intelligent life on Domarus - an immensely powerful race who are subject to lengthy 'sleep' periods. Just awakening from a sleep, one of these beings wants to destroy the visitors; another wants to try to contact them.

And Domarus is the last hope the Tenirans have...

The book reads well. I can't say I read it at a sitting - several things intervened - but I did find that I was able to pick it up again without having any difficulty in continuing to follow the story.

It is perhaps a little jumpy, moving as it does from the crew of the shuttle to the Tenirans to the Enterprise to Picard and Arit on the surface to the native Domarans. Some writers might have chosen not to introduce the native Domarans just as soon as Mr. Weinstein did, keeping what they were doing as a mystery to the reader as well as to the characters, but I think that he was right, for it introduced another level of suspense for the reader. O.K., I know that in these books none of the main Trek characters can be killed, but we don't have that same assurance for the writer's own characters.

I'd give this one 8 out of 10.

REUNION by Michael Jan Friedman Pocket Books \$19.00 Reviewed by Sheila Clark

This is one of the occasional books first put out in hardback (and I'd dearly like to know just *why* Pocket feels the need to do that with a few books when most are put out in paperback).

Captain Morgen of the Excalibur was once an Ensign on the Stargazer. He is also the heir to the throne of the planet of Daa'v, and his father's death means

that he must resign his commission and return home to take up his new position.

Tradition says that he must be accompanied by an honour guard consisting of at least four close friends. Although he has friends on the Excalibur, he has chosen some of his shipmates from the Stargazer to accompany him - all the officers who survived Maxia Zeta - and the Enterprise has been assigned to take him home.

Right from the start one begins to wonder at his choice of companions; they don't seem a particularly congenial group. It also transpires that while they were on the Stargazer, the twin sister of one of them had tried to kill Morgen; no real motive is given, apart from possible racial hatred. The twins, while Human, had been brought up by Klingons, and the Klingons and the Daa'Vit, both warrior races, hated each other. Gerda had gone to rehabilitation, and later had died in a shipboard accident.

Before long, an attempt is made on Morgen's life. Most of the previous Stargazer crew are, obviously, suspect. None have solid alibis. And then the ship is trapped in a warpstream in space that carries her along at a constant warp 9.5...

I'm not a great lover of the whodunnit genre, and until now I've not been too sure that the handful of whodunnits set in the Trek universe actually worked, possibly because SF writers and the writers of mysteries are working on different wavelengths. As an example, I liked Vulcan Academy Murders, but a murder mystery it was not; the killer was obvious right from the start.

This, however, does work. In retrospect, the clues are there, but even although the range of suspects is quite limited, I certainly didn't spot the culprit ahead of time. Certainly the vital clue is late in appearing. One slight weakness - right from the start, Picard is dreaming about Jack Crusher and thinks that Crusher could tell him who the would-killer is. The vital clue comes in a letter Crusher wrote to Beverly, that she is re-reading - a piece of idle gossip, really, in its original context. I felt that there should have been some sort of link indicated, even if it was only Picard realising, after Beverly speaks about the letter, that Crusher had mentioned something of this gossip to him at the time, but such a passing comment that Picard had no conscious memory of it - it was his subconscious trying to remind him of something that turned out to be important. However, this is little more than a bit of nit-picking, and over-all I'd certainly recommend the book.

THE NEXT GENERATION TECHNICAL MANUAL by Rick Sternbach & Michael Okuda
Boxtree Press £11.99 Pocket Books £9.99. Reviewed by Jon Vernon

I have just finished reading this manual and am now qualified to take a degree in quantum physics! This is very heavy stuff. If you don't like the classic series manual you certainly won't like this, although to be fair the addition of anecdotes about the making of the series makes wonderful reading and is a welcome respite from the intense intellectual assault my feeble brain came under whilst trying to comprehend the more serious sections.

I am disappointed that the style of the book is so different from the original manual. I enjoyed studying page after page from the original manual. I enjoyed studying page after page of plan drawings in the original book. Somehow they made you feel part of the experience - you could recognise places and equipment and ultimately it pulled together everything you had learnt into a coherent and solid world. Unfortunately the new manual is almost the opposite, being eclectic in content and carrying far too much text in proportion to illustrations.

None the less, the book is undoubtedly a mandatory addition to the Star Trek library, and with its curious injections of trivia, such as "Each crew member aboard the Enterprise typically generates 52 litres (sic) of waste water and sewerage per day", which suggests the Enterprise either has a water-based plumbing system or that crew members have huge bladders. The manual certainly contains food

for thought.

VIDEO REVIEWS 71/72 by Gloria Fry

WHOM GODS DESTROY by Lee Erwin

Kirk and Spock beam down to the institution for the last of the galaxy's criminally insane humanoids on the planet Elba 2. They are bringing a drug which could cure the patients, but are met by Garth of Izar, a shapechanger and inmate, who has taken the guise of the governor, and fools them for a time until they see the real Governor Cory imprisoned. Garth and the other inmates now run the place and plan to take over the Enterprise. Kirk attempts to reason with Garth but is subjected to torture, while Spock is imprisoned elsewhere...

Garth attempts to deceive each officer by shapechanging into the other, sends the beautiful Marta to seduce Kirk and tries unsuccessfully to obtain the code necessary for beam up. Finally he changes into Kirk, and Spock is faced with having to choose which one really is his Captain. Finally he phases the impostor, order is restored and the new drug is administered, showing hopeful results.

This episode was banned by the BBC because of the subject matter. However as it does not show anything in a realistic manner, it is unlikely that anyone would be offended by it. It is not however a comfortable episode to watch and certainly is far from the best. It is one Leonard Nimoy was not pleased with and he fought with everyone to improve the storyline and situations, eventually having to compromise. He knew that Spock would be able to work out which man was his real Captain, but the director wanted a fight between the two Kirks, and Spock overpowered. The end result without Nimoy's intervention would have been far worse, but one wonders at the shortsightedness of some of the people involved with certain 3rd season shows. One thing in its favour though was the attitude to mental illness at a time when normal treatment was still pretty barbaric, and the hopeful message at the end with the drug to finally cure the condition.

THE MARK OF GIDEON by George Slavin and Stanley Adams

Kirk beams to the planet Gideon on Federation orders but arrives instead on a completely empty Enterprise instead of the Gideon Council Chambers, losing some time in the process, and with a cut on his arm. As he wanders confusedly through his ship he meets with the beautiful Odon, suspects she is from Gideon and tries to learn from her what has happened to his crew.

Meanwhile on the ship, Spock has to deal with the highly unlikeable Hodin, Head of the Council, and try to retain his best diplomatic manner, despite fears over his Captain's disappearance. McCoy and Scott are not so restrained and give vent to their feelings over Hodin's evasions. Finally, Spock risks Starfleet's displeasure and beams down - despite the ban imposed on him - after discovering the discrepancy in the two sets of co-ordinates given by Gideon. He quickly ascertains he is on a replica of the Enterprise on the planet and proceeds to find Kirk, who is now with the sick Odon, who is infected with Vegan choriomeningitis, a disease Kirk carries in his blood.

Kirk learns that the Gideonites are an extremely overpopulated species and that through him, they wish to introduce disease into their world and so reduce their numbers. He advises them of the many kinds of birth control methods available in the Federation, but they will not accept any, due to their beliefs.

They ask Kirk to stay and be the instrument of - in their eyes - their salvation. Kirk refuses and takes Odon to the ship to be cured; she willingly takes his place to be her people's saviour.

Once again ST dealt with a subject not exactly acceptable for series television, showing us again how they highlighted the social issues of the times, disguised in the S.F. format. Overpopulation was one of the great fears of the

60's and the subject of many a S.F. book, but the method devised by the Gideonites was extreme, and distasteful by most peoples' standards.

The comparison between Kirk and Spock's reaction to the empty ship was most interesting. Kirk... disorientated by whatever they had done to him during the time lapse... bewildered and certainly afraid. Spock - startled... but quickly reaching the correct conclusion.

An enjoyable episode, which shows even Spock has his breaking point with bureaucrats and diplomats. Not one of my favourites, but very watchable.

ANIMATED TREK - MY FIRST IMPRESSION by Steve Davies

Well, there I was browsing along the video shelves in search of something new and I *almost* missed it!! Missed what? The animated Star Trek volumes I & II. For some years I've been wondering what it's actually like - with trembling fingers I picked the box off the shelf. To tell you the truth I was very disappointed on seeing the cover up close (complete with the "film" Enterprise!) and that was what probably discouraged me from buying both volumes. If animated Trek turned out to be a turkey I wouldn't be able to live with myself for spending £20 on it - £10 (£9.99) I could handle!!

Anyway I pootled home and crammed my purchase into the VCR. After the first few shots of the Enterprise (identical I may add to the live action shots) I sat down thinking "Hey this really isn't so bad". The voices are provided by all the original actors and all the equipment makes the same bleeps and whining noises. The first episode "More Tribble, More Troubles" has so many references to the episode it is based on ("The Trouble With Tribbles") that one immediately feels at home with it. The tribbles aren't quite the same this time around but Cyrano Jones certainly is (I believe it's the same person providing the voice as well). The story, by David Gerrold, is intelligent and witty and more importantly very faithful to its original. Again listen for the best line from Scotty at the end.

The animation is pretty basic although the ships are very nice to look at. For some reason the tractor beam on the Enterprise now springs out of the shuttlebay. It's easy to tell which character is which but none of them look particularly like their 3D counterparts. Cyrano Jones I recognized immediately and even Captain Koloth (even though the voice is completely different!)

All in all - a good effort and it's nice to see a few more "sequilisations" a la "Space Seed" and TWOK. The other three episodes on volume I are "The Infinite Vulcan" by none other than Walter Koenig (why the "bad" guy is 40 foot tall I have no ideal!, "Yesteryear" by D C Fontana and "Beyond the Farthest Star" by Samuel A Peeples. The whole lot lasts 92 minutes but don't get too excited, I *think* volume two only has 3 episodes.

If rumours are true and TNG ends up only on the big screen would ST make an animated come-back on the TV in the not-too-distant future? TNG - the Animateds?"

I'll end with a quote from Starburst issue 161 - "sit tight for Star Trek VI, it's a real scorcher!"

"STAR TREK VI:THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY" conducted/composed by Cliff Eidelman.
Reviewed by Eddie Yau

The soundtrack to "Star Trek VI:The Undiscovered Country" is now available in the U.K. as a specially IMPORTED CD/cassette (therefore more expensive!) The r.r.p. for the CD version is £19.99 - can you wait for the U.K. release version??? (I couldn't!) Check the major music stores for availability.

On the CD version:-

Track	Title	Track length
1.	"Overture"	2m 57s
2.	"An Incident"	0m 53s
3.	"Clear All Moorings"	1m 39s
4.	"Assassination"	4m 45s
5.	"Surrender For Peace"	2m 46s
6.	"Death Of Gorkon"	1m 10s
7.	"Rura Penthe"	4m 22s
8.	"Revealed"	2m 38s
9.	"Escape From Rura Penthe"	5m 34s
10.	"Dining On Ashes"	1m 00s
11.	"The Battle For Peace"	8m 03s
12.	"Sign Off"	3m 13s
13.	"Star Trek VI Suite"	6m 18s

The score is based on "The Planets" by Holst. [*Firebird (Stravinsky) is also quoted as a source of inspiration.*] Therefore, it turns out to be (or not to be, that is the question... etc. etc.!) a very dark and atmospheric score. No wonder the Paramount execs. were impressed by it - in my opinion, the score rates as the best of all the scores for the movies in terms of atmosphere. Of course, a good or bad score is very often "instrumental" (forgive the bad pun) in making or breaking a movie. This one makes it.

If you close your eyes and let your mind "flow" with the score, you really do get the feeling of death, danger, suspense, war and peace. Picture if you will a very, very dark version of the Star Trek II score (particularly the battle sequences); mix well with "a cup" of the score from "The Best Of Both Worlds", laced with a dash of the more romantic parts of the STV score and you are beginning to get the idea. Of course, buy it and you can hear for yourself!

ZINE REVIEWS

CENTRE STAGE 2 Reviewed by Sheila Clark

This zine contains short stories and poems all written by Linda Wood. 6 of the items are Trek-orientated; the rest are based on other roles played by Leonard Nimoy, from *Zombies of the Stratosphere* to today.

There is perhaps a little more poetry in the zine than I personally would prefer, but this is more than made up for by the quality of the stories. Linda is a very able writer and tells a good story; four of the items won either first or second place in various convention fiction competitions. Although it is not one of the competition winners, I think my favourite story is the one based on *The Hitch-hiker* (from *The Way I Feel*, one of Nimoy's song albums). It follows the hitch-hiker from when he steals the car, checks through all the things he has stolen... and has a chilling end that leaves you feeling "it serves him right!"

Well worth getting. Obtainable from Linda Wood, see zine ads.

AHMAD by Linda Wood Reviewed by Sheila Clark.

This is a biography of Ahmad Fanakati, the character played by Leonard Nimoy in the TV mini-series *Marco Polo*.

Linda has researched her subject thoroughly and has produced a remarkably sympathetic portrayal of a man who to all outward appearances was power-hungry and ruthless. The story moves well and the reader gets something of the flavour of what it must have been like living in those days.

Definitely recommended. Obtainable from Linda Wood, see zine ads.

MIND MELD VI Published by Sandy Zier. Reviewed by Laurie Haynes

This is an all new issue of Mind Meld which came out in October, 1991. Mind Meld has been a favourite zine of mine for some time. It almost always boasts plenty of wonderful hurt-comfort stories. This issue certainly lives up to my high expectations. It is a top quality Classic Trek genzine - perhaps the finest one being published. No. 6 is 281 offset printed pages of superb writing and excellent artwork. The perfect bound cover sports a magnificent colour illustration by Chris Soto, one of my very favourite artists. The theme illo is the 25th anniversary of Star Trek.

My favourite stories are "Never Alone", by Lynn Syck and Laurel Ridener, "Unspoken Truths", by Lynn Syck and Mary Rottler, "Secrets", by Beverly Volker, and "There Will Be No Peace" by Ginna LaCroix. Three of those are post Star Trek V stories. Britain's own Kay Stagg also has a fine story in there - "Silent Cry". For the McCoy fans, there is a hurt-comfort novella, "Journey of a Soul" (by Marian Kelly) focusing on that character. That novella has some beautiful full colour illustrations by Suzan Lovett, also one of the finest artists in fandom.

The stories I mentioned all have strong character interrelationships. "Never Alone", is a good example of this. Following an argument with Kirk over his recklessness, McCoy is severely injured in a rock slide. Our crochety doctor doesn't let go of his resentment till the end, when he almost loses his best friend. In "Unspoken Truths", Kirk is highly annoyed with Spock for keeping secrets from him. Seems like every time one of those secrets comes out, it means big trouble for Kirk. The latest secret, Sybok, is what brings Kirk to chew out Spock. "Secrets" takes place just before the episode, "The Enterprise Incident". Kirk has to start acting irrationally in preparation for the mission. Although Spock knows what's going on, Kirk doesn't tell McCoy - although he hates deceiving and worrying him - in order to protect him in case the Romulans later question the doctor. "There Will Be No Peace" takes place immediately after Star Trek V. Kirk is in rough shape following his encounter with the god-thing, but there's no time to rest. He's got to find a way out of the energy barrier. He enlists Vixis' and Koord's help. That Captain Klaa badly wants Kirk's hide doesn't make co-operating any easier. "Silent Cry" is a well-written short story that follows up the episode, "The Immunity Syndrome". All those stimulants Kirk talked McCoy into giving him wreak havoc with his body. Fortunately, Spock is there to see him through the ordeal.

These aren't the only good stories in the zine - there are several more. The ones I mentioned are the ones I enjoyed most.

Mind Meld VI is available from Sandy Zier, 6656 Aspern Drive, Elkridge, MD 21227, USA. In the U.S., it's \$21 through the mail. For information on prices in other countries, send a SAE and two IRC's.

NEW ZINES

Where necessary, check Zine Ads for ordering details.

IDIC/Scotpress:

IDIC LOG 8 - Spock's first meeting with Leila; Kirk tries to get Spock to socialise with the other senior officers; Spock's death at Genesis - from the POV of Sarek & Amanda; Spock visits his Human grandmother; a child, ruler of a Vulcan colony world, is kidnapped; and others. Due February, £4.00

MAKE IT SO 7 - Riker has a dream... or is it precognition?; strange 'things' are

being found on a mining world; Riker has to come to terms with a personal trauma; Chautara joins the Federation (sequel to Ambassador Royale); Riker visits some old friends... and meets a new one. Due February, £4.00

GEMPRINT

THE BETTER MAN by Sue Embury. An alternative version of the Classic Trek episode "Turnabout Intruder". Jim Kirk is trapped in the body of a woman, and Spock is the only one who believes his true identity. Jim is committed to a psychiatric hospital, while a psychopath with the appearance of James T. Kirk is in command of the Enterprise. The story explores how Kirk copes with his dispossession, and how Spock and the Enterprise crew respond to the situation. Illustrated: 135,000 words in 149 pages. UK price £5.00. Overseas surface mail £5.00 sterling banknote plus 4 IRCs. Sue Embury, Lower Baileia, Tregare, Monmouth, Gwent NP5 4JL

ZINE ADS

You can send your Zine Ads to either Janet or Sheila. While we will try and print them in full we reserve the right to edit for length if necessary. We will print these ads in two consecutive newsletters only unless we receive an update.

IDIC/ScoTpress

IDIC LOG 8 - short stories by various writers. Due February U.K. £4.00.

IDIC LOG 7 - short stories by various writers. U.K. £4.00.

IDIC LOG 6, 5 - short stories by various writers. Each U.K. £3.90.

IDIC LOG 4 - short stories by various writers. U.K. £3.80.

IDIC LOG 3, 1 - short stories by various writers. Each U.K. £3.60.

IDIC LOG 2 - ECHOES OF THE PAST by Christopher Ng. When the Excelsior disappears, the Enterprise is sent to look for her. U.K. £3.90.

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 86 - a shuttle carrying Kirk, Spock, an Ambassador and his family crash lands - and the Klingons are around; Spock is threatened with promotion; several seasonal stories and poems; and others. U.K. £4.00

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 85 - short stories by various writers. U.K. £3.90.

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 84 - short stories by various writers. U.K. £3.80.

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 83 - short stories by various writers. U.K. £3.70.

MAKE IT SO 7 - short stories about the TNG characters. Due February U.K. £4.00.

MAKE IT SO 6 - short stories about the TNG characters. U.K. £4.00.

MAKE IT SO 5 - short stories about the TNG characters. U.K. £3.90.

Nos 1 - 3 out of print. Accepting submissions for issue 7 on.

CAPRICCIO ITALIEN by Sue Jones. The Enterprise picks up a Priority 1 call from Leonardo's Planet, but when the ship arrives there, everyone denies having sent it. Things however are not as peaceful as they seem. U.K. £3.90.

CITY WITHOUT WALLS by Alinda Alain. A sequel to One Among You. Although he has already been defeated, Mitchell's jealousy of Kirk and Spock forces him to keep on trying to destroy them. U.K. £2.95.

A GIFT BEYOND PRICE by Gloria Fry - Kirk has just taken command of the Enterprise. U.K. £3.05.

KINDRED SPIRIT by Gloria Fry - sequel to Gift. Mitchell cannot control his jealousy of Kirk and Spock. U.K. £3.25.

RETURN TO THE SOURCE by Nicole Comtet. Spock must get some top secret information to Vulcan. U.K. £3.25.

LOVELY - A LITTLE PROBLEM by Brenda Kelsey - The ship is in quarantine after the tribble episode and to occupy the time is carrying a group of diplomats to their destination. U.K. £3.90.

ORCADIA by Joyce Devlin. A sequel to From Starship to Lancaster. Wiseman, defeated in that story and sent to rehabilitation, escapes again and returns to Earth in 1939 to make sure that Hitler will win World War II. U.K. £3.15.

ESSAYS OF AQUARIUS by Marion Van der Voort. The adventures of Captain Bill Sava, First Officer Radin and Dr. Teddy Bhaer of the Aquarius. THIS IS NOT STAR TREK but there are many resemblances. On embarkation leave, Bill and Radin get to know each other; and we learn something about the Empire in which this series is set.

U.K. £5.00.

Still available a number of other titles. Order from Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH. Please make cheques, POs payable to Scotpress. Visa/Access/Mastercard accepted.

Foreign prices: Europe, add £1 per zine; Australia/Japan write to Sheila for prices, enclosing an SAE + IRC.

We have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell IDIC & Scotpress zines in America and Canada; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

We are soliciting submissions for IDIC and Scotpress zines - stories, poems, artwork - of both original Trek and TNG material, either short stories for IDIC LOG, ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES or MAKE IT SO, or long ones suitable for printing on their own. No stories about death of main characters (except Yar!) or explicit sex; stories should include at least one character who has appeared in aired Trek. These are, after all, the voyages of the Starship Enterprise... (in either incarnation). Send submissions of TNG material to Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee, Scotland, and Classic Trek material to Valere Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland.

BILL HUPE & PEG KENNEDY

American postage prices go up in February and we don't know the new rates yet. SAE for new postage prices.

BACK TO SQUARE ONE - a novel taking place between seasons 1 & 2 of TNG. Alicia Kuroki is revived from suspended animation and assigned as doctor to the Enterprise \$11.00 + postage

BEVERLY FILES, Nos 1, 2 & 3 - produced in conjunction with the Beverlyphiles. Each issue contains plenty of Crusher-oriented fiction as well as reviews of Gates McFadden's various performances. No. 1 - \$12.00, No. 2, \$15.50, No. 3 (new), \$13.50 + postage

FREE FALL 1 - short stories about the original crew. McCoy's divorce; a hectic day for McCoy; McCoy is kidnapped; two female inspectors come on board to oversee repairs. \$8.00 + postage

LEGACY OF KIRK - ST/TNG In ST II Kirk finally faces death head on. Nearly a century later, Picard still believes death to be man's last adventure. \$6.00 + postage

PIRATES OF AVALON - Picard is on a mission to establish a trade agreement with Avalon before the Rihannsu negotiate an agreement; complicating this are pirates who have been using Avalon as a base. \$6.50 + postage

CANDLELIGHT AND FLAMES - K/S - AGE STATEMENT REQUIRED, also a statement that you understand the premise. Both established and new writers. 153 pages. \$13.00 + postage

Many other titles available. We can now accept personal cheques from the U.K. Please add 1.5% for bank charges. Bill Hupe & Peg Kennedy, Suite 50, 920

Trowbridge Rd No. 2, East Lansing, MI 48823, USA. Janet Ellicott (see below) is acting as Bill's agent in Britain - SAE her for British prices. America - Bill's address is now Footrot Flats, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554.

Greycloud Services

Large number of zines available in several fandoms. US Star Trek zines include **DEFORST KELLEY COMPENDIUM** (£14); **ENCOUNTERS** (£10.50); **HELLGUARD SOCIAL REGISTER** (£10); **IN A DIFFERENT REALITY** 21,22 (£6.50 each); **LONESTAR TREK** (No. 2, £8, No. 3, £10); **KRAITH COLLECTED** (5 volumes, £8 each) (Age statement required) **R&R** (15 different volumes, £10 each) (Age statement required). Please add 10% of total order for postage & packing. I can accept payment in bank notes from overseas and personal cheques from the US only, otherwise payment should be in sterling. SAE for list of other zines and prices. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Hackney, London E9 6RN, England.

Linda Wood -

UNIVERSER - Star Trek poetry and prose, all previously unpublished, featuring convention prizewinning poems and story, artwork by Sandra Finch. UK £2, Europe £5, Australia/Japan £6, USA \$8 inc surface postage.

UNIVERSER 2 - Star Trek prose and poetry, all previously unpublished, featuring

convention winning poems. Artwork by Sandra Finch. UK £2, Europe £5,

Australia/Japan £6, USA \$8 inc surface postage.

THE TSAR'S ASSASSIN - the life story of Count Alexei Mippipopolous, Leonard Nimoy's character from the TV movie *The Sun Also Rises*. Over 100 pages of murder, intrigue and sudden death! Artwork by Caryl Sibbett. UK £3.50, Europe £5.50, Australia/Japan £6.00, USA \$10 inc surface postage.

CENTRE STAGE - 3 stories of Leonard Nimoy characters - Stryker from *Get Smart*, Lord Achmet from *Marco Polo* and Ben Blacker from *M-Squad*. Artwork by Caryl Sibbett. UK £3, Europe £5, Australia/Japan £6, USA \$10 inc surface postage.

CENTRE STAGE 2 - 78 pages of stories and poems covering the whole range of Leonard Nimoy's characters, from *Zombies of the Stratosphere* to *ST:TNG* - Sarek, including convention prizewinners. Artwork by Sue Toher. UK £5, Europe £7, Australia/Japan £11 air, £7 surface, USA \$20 air, \$15 surface. Please state type of postage.

AHMAD - 200 pages of historical fiction on the turbulent life of Ahmat Fanakati, Leonard Nimoy's character from the TV miniseries *Marco Polo*. Adult statement required. Artwork by Sue Toher. UK £8, Europe £11.50, Australia/Japan £20 air, £11 surface, USA \$35 air, \$22 surface. Please state type of postage. Zines copyright Tsaela Press. All available from Linda C Wood, 186 Copland Rd, Glasgow G51 2UN, Scotland. Other zines by Linda Wood, available through Spotlight on Leonard Nimoy International Fan Club, 77 The Ridings, Ealing, London W5 3DP include **THE ORVILLE MILLER STORY** (Catlow) and **PARTNERS** (T J Hooker) £2 each (UK)

ZINES by Kay Stagg

Genzines - Kirk/Spock orientated hurt/comfort. Please make cheques or postal orders payable to Kay Stagg and send orders to 33 Barrack Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6RU. Postage and packing included in the price (second class).

SECOND CHANGE/A COLD BY ANY OTHER NAME (Previously appeared in *Stargate* and *Stargate II*) 75 pages £3. **TROUBLES REVISITED/THE RIFT/JUSTICE SHOULD BE SEEN TO BE DONE** (previously appeared in *Stargate III* and *Enterprise Log Entries 61* (Scotpress)) 96 pages, £3.60/ **FREEDOM** - full length story 167 pages £4.80. **TOO MANY AVENUES** - full length story £4.80. **IN PERSPECTIVE** - full length story 177 pages £4.80. For other items, ie pens, pencils, notebooks, bookmarks, etc, please send SAE for information.

Merry Men Press

FIRST TIME zines contain K/S stories, art and poetry. Age statement required.

FIRST TIME is always on time. All inquiries and orders are promptly filled, no-one's left to hang on the line. SAE (addressed envelope and 2 IRCs) for more info. **FIRST TIME 1** - 31 available.

New - **GAMBIT**, a Mirror/'our' universe K/S novel by Kay Wells. **WITHIN THE MIRROR** - an all mirror-related K/S zine. Full of first time stories, and on time. Within the Mirror I is nominated for several awards. Within the Mirror II - V are also currently in print. **BESIDE MYSELF 1 & 2** - well-illustrated K/S zines exclusively written by Robin Hood and her assorted pen names. **FETISH** - a K/S novel by Jenny Starr. Winner of 1988 Best Novel. **PORTRAITS** - A K/S novel by Charlotte Frost. **SCATTERED STARS 1 - 3** - an alternate universe K/S fanzine. Some non-Trek zines also available. Prices for all zines are \$20.00 US, \$22.00 Canada, \$26.00 foreign. US currency only please. Merry Men Press, 274 Roanoke Rd, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA.

ENTERPRISE ORIGINALS Publications

MANY A SLIP: a collection of short stories and poems of a humorous nature by various writers, edited by Sue James. Order from Jacqueline Comben, Post Cottage, Rhossili, Gower, Swansea, SA3 1PL, South Wales. Price; £1.25 for EO members, £1.75 for others. Add 35p for postage and packing. Cheques in sterling only to Enterprise Originals.

BSFR

STAR VOYAGES 1 BSFR Short Story Zine. Issue 1 contains five short stories set in the universe of 'Classic' Trek. The writers are: Glyn & Lynda Probert, Oriel Cooper, Rod Summers, John A. Mariani & Steve Farthing. Price £3.50 for BSFR members, £4.00 for non members. Please add 60p p&p for Britain.

AFTERGLOW a novel by Jacqueline Comben, sequel to *GREEN FIRE*. Price £3.45 for BSFR members, £3.95 for non members. Please add 60p p&p for Britain.

Other titles still available. Dave Uppington, BSFR Zines, 10 Wedgwood Close, Fortfield Green, Whitchurch, Bristol BS14 9YE.

Kathleen Resch

K/S zines - age statement required

T'HY'LA 10 - new. No. 11 due soon. T'HY'LA 1, 3-5, 7-9 (short stories) \$24.00 each, air, \$20.00 each surface; No. 2, novel 'The Things I Cannot Change' \$24.00 air, \$20.00 surface; No. 6, \$18.00 air, \$15.00 surface. No. 12 is open for submissions. BEFORE THE GLORY (short stories) \$24.00 air; DAY OF VENGEANCE, novel by Jean Lightfoot and C. Del Rio, \$19.00 air; THE PRICE OF FREEDOM - novel by Jean Lightfoot. Spock has disappeared; Kirk risks both life and career to find him - but when he does, he finds a drug-addicted stranger... \$26.00 air, \$20.00 surface. Zines from other fandoms also available. Kathleen Resch, PO Box 1766, Temple City, CA 91780, USA. [Ed: Send an SAE for info on possible increase of prices due to U.S. postal rise.]

THE SMALL PRINTERS

New - CLOSER THAN A BROTHER by Meg Wright. (Reprint) £6.75 inclusive of p&p. HOOPS OF STEEL by Meg Wright. (Reprint) £4.25 inclusive of p&p. Star Trek and Professionals zines, new and reprinted. SAE for prices and availability to L. R. Muir, 1 Moor Park Avenue, Leeds LS6 4BT.

HIATUS PRESS

A LEGEND BEGINS by Barbara Alleyn. A biography of the early life of James T. Kirk. 200+ pages. Printed on A5 with card covers and spiral bound. Price £5.30 inc postage. US price \$14.00 inc postage. Cheques should be made payable to Barbara E. Ellams. Hiatus Press, Flat 2, 32 St Mary's Road, London SE15 2DW

LONESTAR TREK No. 4 Original Trek and TNG. Original Trek novellas by Lynn Syck & Mary Rottler, and Lorraine Anderson; stories by Laurie D. Haynes and Jan Meek; art by Kay Wells and Brett Barham. Special 25th anniversary colour cover by Kay Wells. Approximately 200 pages. \$19 US, \$20 Can, \$26 Europe, \$28 Pacific. Still available - No. 1 \$20 OS Airmail, No.2 \$25 OS Airmail, No.3 (available March 1991), classic Trek and TNG stories. Available November 1991 from Lone Star Trek, c/o Laurie Haynes/Janet Meek, P.O. Box 189, DeRidder, LA 70634, U.S.A.

GEMPRINT

THE BETTER MAN by Sue Embury. An alternative version of the Classic Trek episode "Turnabout Intruder" Jim Kirk is trapped in the body of a woman, and Spock is the only one who believes his true identity. Jim is committed to a psychiatric hospital, while a psychopath with the appearance of James T. Kirk is in command of the Enterprise. The story explores how Kirk copes with his dispossession, and how Spock and the Enterprise crew respond to the situation. Illustrated: 135,000 words in 149 pages. UK price 5. Overseas surface mail 5 sterling banknote plus 4 IRCs. Sue Embury, Lower Bailea, Tregare, Monmouth, Gwent NP5 4JL

Hailing all writers of *original* Star Trek stories and poems, both Gen and K/S!! and artists!! "OUTPOST" will be publishing both Gen (The Preserver's Chronicles) and K/S (The Preservers Secret Chronicles) zines in the near future and is looking for submissions. We are willing to consider *all* subjects, as long as they deal with Kirk, Spock, McCoy and the crew of the Enterprise (including all the films!). All contributors will, of course, receive a complimentary copy of the zine in which their material is printed. Please send to: "OUTPOST", Bettina Rackel and Karen Hayden, Am Tannenbusch 31, 4192 Kalkar, West Germany.

If anyone who has written for Scotpress or IDIC would be willing to see their stories translated into Italian, please send a copy of the story (with a mention of which zine it first appeared in) to Mariangela Cerrino, C.P.28 - 10048 Vinovo (TO) Italy. Classic Trek only, please. The zine (Log Plus) has been in publication for five years and is currently at number 11. Translation is done by professionals. Let Mariangela know if you want a copy of the Italian zine.

Blue Jay Press - Multi-media zines

ENIGMA 7 - Z Cars, Captain Scarlet, Incredible Hulk; **ENIGMA 8** - Tales of the Unexpected, Dr. Who, Knight Rider, Captain Scarlet, Incredible Hulk, Professionals; **ENIGMA 9** - Sherlock Holmes, Emergency, The Quest, Star Trek, Battlestar Galactica, Captain Scarlet; **ENIGMA 11** - Laramie, North and South, Buck Rogers, V, Blakes 7; **ENIGMA 12** - Secret Army, Robin of Sherwood, Mad Max, V; **ENIGMA 13** - Ace of Wands, Elfquest, The A Team, Battlestar Galactica, Professionals, Blakes 7, Knight Rider. These are multi-media genzines. Prices: Issues 7,8,9,11 - £2.75 (UK); \$8 (US), Issue 12 £3.25 (UK); \$9 (US), Issue 13 £3.75 (UK); \$10 (US). Also single series zines; **RED DUST 2** (V) £2.75 (UK); \$8.00 (US); **GROWING PAINS** (V) £2.00 (UK); \$7.00 (US); **DISINFORMATION** (Sandbaggers) £3.75 (UK); \$10.00 (US); **AFTERMATH** (Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea) £2.75 (UK); \$8.00 (US). All prices include p&p. Make cheques/money orders payable to Pamela Dale. Please order from Pamela Dale, Hillcrest, St Mary's Road, Riddlesden, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD20 5PA

AIRWAVES, multi-media zine, 22 issues now available, future issues quarterly. Topics range from A-Team, Galactica, Blake's 7, Dr. Who, The Equalizer, Robin of Sherwood, Beauty and the Beast, Garrison's Gorillas, Sapphire and Steel, Blackadder, Star Trek (Original and TNG), Professionals, Knight Rider, Airwolf, The Bill, Miami Vice, 'V', Zorro etc. Submissions always welcome, no limits to length but no 'Slash' fiction, please! Free copy of zine to all contributors. Zines are computer printed, with photocopied photo covers, 65 plus pages per issue. For further details of contents, prices etc, send an SAE (2 IRC's if overseas) for flyer to Miss B. Callagher, 195 Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0TQ. **OTHER ZINES AVAILABLE: KNIGHT 2000** (a Knight Rider based zine) - **FLIGHT INTO SLAVERY** (one-off Battlestar Galactica & Blake's 7 crossover) - **THE HOODED MAN** (Robin of Sherwood). Flyer available from address above. Submissions always welcome.

CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS

CONVENTIONS / GET-TOGETHERS

WE THREE ARE KLINGONS! 6-8 March 1992, Angel Hotel, Northampton. A Klingon weekend. Following on from We Are Klingons! and We Are Klingons, Tool, a change of venue brings the representatives of the Glorious Empire to Northampton. Qapla! Guest: John Carrigan, stunt person, actor and all round nice guy, who will be presenting a stunt display as he did at the first WE ARE KLINGONS! Registration £12, room rates £22 per person per night (all types of room), including VAT and Full English breakfast. Tara Dyson, Dept. of Chemistry, University College, 20 Gordon Street, London WC1H 0AJ.

SOL III '92. The 33rd British Star Trek Convention 1st - 4th May, 1992. Venue: The Grand Hotel, Birmingham. Full Registration: £25.00. (Further details on request). Room rates: £25.00 per person per night, inclusive of VAT and full English breakfast, and irrespective of type of room. Guest speakers (to be announced); theme parties; disco; fancy dress; auctions; competitions; video programmes beginning at noon on Friday. Our charity is the Royal National Institute for the Deaf. For further information and an application form, please write to SOL III '92, c/o Heather Hillsden, 148 Reede Road, Dagenham, Essex RM10 8DX, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

CONTAGION The Scottish Star Trek Convention 18-20 July, 1992. The Central Hotel, Glasgow. Guests: George Takei, Richard Arnold (STAR TREK Research Consultant), others to be announced. Star Trek episodes: Classic & Next Generation, films, quizzes/games, dealers room etc plus a Ceilidh and Scottish Folk Night. Registration: Adult (15 years+) - £30.00, Child 10-14 £15, under 10 Free. (Note: Children under 10 years must be accompanied by an adult. No creche facilities will be available.) Special discount for Silvercon '91 attendees - ask for details. Hotel rates (per person per night): Single £26, Twin/Double £22, Triple £18, Quadruple £16. Price is for Bed & Breakfast and includes VAT and Service. £15 per person non-refundable deposit at time of booking.

For further info send SAE to: Contagion, PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR.

REC-CON: The 34th British Star Trek Convention. 28th - 31st August, 1992
Guests to be confirmed. To be held at the Piccadilly Hotel, Manchester.
Registration until 4/8/1992 £25.00. Room rates £28 per person per night in
Twin/Double rooms. £40.00 per person per night in single room. Contact: Tina
Hewett, 65 Park Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 1ST.

MIDCON '92 The 11th Annual Midlands Convention, boldly going longer than any other,
breaking new ground each year... October 2nd - 4th, 1992. Holiday Inn, Leicester.
Registration: £30.00 until June 1992, then £35.00 thereafter (payment by
instalments if required). Full details from: Terry Elson, 8 Ennerdale Close,
Oadby, Leicester LE2 4TN.

IFT CONVENTION '92 9th-12th October 1992. Holiday Inn Leicester.
Guests to be confirmed. Convention Charity to be chosen.
PROGRAMME Video (Original/Next Generation), Art/Model Display, Dealers' Room
(Professional/Clubs), Competitions (Art/Fiction/Poetry/Fancy Dress), Disco, Theme
Party, A KLINGON HUNT???? Further details send an SASE to: IFT CON '92, Fiona
Barrowclough, 129 Westfield Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 3HN.

UFP HOLIDAY TREK 92 Larnaca, Cyprus. 6th-9th November, 1992. A Trek con and
holiday in Cyprus at much lower cost than with holiday tour operators. £285 for
the weekend, or stay a week for £360; cost includes bed and breakfast, flights and
con registration. Hotel is the luxurious four star Palm Beach, flights on
scheduled CyprusAir. Monthly payment plan available. Send SAE for further details
to Kim Farey, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

T'KON 1992 - Star Trek Convention
Guests, games, multiple video programmes, zine library, games rooms, multiple sales
rooms, theme parties, stunt shows and lots, lots more. Registration for the
weekend only £12.00 for an adult, £7.00 for one day. Full details available from
Susan Whiffin, 12 Marlow Road, Hurley, Nr. Atherstone, Warks. CV9 2NG.

WARP ONE: The 35th British Star Trek Convention. 30th April - 3rd May, 1993
At the Middleton Tower Holiday Centre, Morecambe, Lancs.
Registration: £30, under 16s half price, under 5s free. Day and supporting
registrations available. Accommodation: £26.70 PPPN if paying before 18/3/93,
£33.30 PPPN after 18/3/93. Under 16s half price, under 2s free. The rate is for
full board accommodation. Guests to be announced, parties, disco, video
programmes, the usual competitions plus some surprises. In aid of Cancer Research.
For more details and a registration form send an SASE to Warp One, 69 Merlin
Crescent, Eghware, Middlesex HA8 6JB.

HOLODECK The 36th British Star Trek Convention. 27th - 30th August, 1993
Telford Moat House Hotel. In aid of the Invalid Childrens' Aid Nationwide Charity.
Registration: Full £25, Fri/Sat or Sat/Sun £15, Sat/Sun £20, 1 day £10, Supporting
£10. Child 10-16 half the above rates, under 10s free. Hotel Rates, per person
per night, inclusive of full English Breakfast and VAT: £25 sharing a twin or
double, £32 in a single. Send an SAE for further info and registration form to:
Holodeck 93, P.O. Box 29, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9TG.

1974-1993 BRITISH STAR TREK ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION October 1st - 3rd, 1993. The
Holiday Inn, Leicester. Registration: £40.00 until June 1993, then £45.00
thereafter (payment by instalments if required) - **SPECIAL DISCOUNT** for attendees of
1st BRITISH STAR TREK CONVENTION - LEICESTER 1974. Full details from: Terry Elson,
8 Ennerdale Close, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4TN.

OVERSEAS CONVENTIONS

VULKON Feb 22-23, 1992, Castlegate Hotel and Conference Centre, Atlanta, GA, USA
Guests: Patrick Stewart, Michael Okuda, Jean Dilliard, Richard Arnold, Laura Banks,
Cheryl Mandus. Q&A Sessions, autographs, Large dealers' room, costume contest,

continuous film rooms, panels etc. Membership by mail or at the door, \$30 two days, \$20 Saturday, \$15 Sunday. Doors open Friday 7 pm, 10 am Saturday and Sunday. Hotel rooms are available for Friday and Saturday nights for \$55 single, double, triple or quad. Call the Castlegate at 800-824-8657 outside Georgia or 404-351-6100 and mention Star Trek to get the special rate. The address is 1750 Commerce Drive at the Howell Mill Road exit off I-75. Vulkan, c/o Joe Mates, 1223/ SW 50 Street, Cooper City, FL 33330, U.S.A.

REVELCON TRES: March 13-15, 1992. Houston Intercontinental Airport Hilton, 500 N. Sam Houston Parkway, Houston, Texas U.S.A. This is a con specializing in media fanzines and art - everything from gen to adult fanzines and art will be available for purchase. There will be an art show and auction, a fanzine reading room and a video duping room as well as various panels and other assorted activities. The dealers room will be full of fanzines and collectibles. No one under 18 will be admitted and no memberships will be sold at the door. Memberships are \$42 until Feb 29, 1992 and \$50 after that until March 9, 1992. Hotel rates are \$65 for up to four persons per room. Reservations must be made by Feb 27, 1992. Free airport shuttle. To purchase membership or obtain more information (SAE with two IRC's for info), write to Revelcon Tres, c/o Candace Pulleine, P.O. Box 980744, Houston, TX 77098-0744, U.S.A.

SEA TREK CRUISE: Cruise Trek presents A Tribute to Trek Fans. June 5-8, 1992 on Norwegian Cruise Line's Starship SOUTHWARD. Sail from LA to Catalina & Ensenada, Mexico. Cruise along with 10 or more of the Star Trek and Star Trek The Next Generation cast. Enjoy 3 days and nights of unforgettable Star Trek fun! Price includes stateroom accommodations, all meals, entertainment, and Trek activities, plus special collectors' gifts. Price per person ranges from \$472 to \$770 plus \$33 port charges and \$27 pre-paid gratuities. Call Cruise Trek Now! (818)597-7570 (USA) or (800)745-7545 (USA).

WIN A FREE CRUISE! Enter the Trek Fan of The Year contest. For a contest application, send a self-addressed envelope (+ 2 IRCs) to: Cruise Trek, 5330 Derry Avenue, Suite F, Agoura Hills, CA 91301, U.S.A. No purchase necessary. Must be 18 to enter. Paramount is no way associated with Cruise Trek 92 which is produced by Cruises Cruises Cruises.

NON STAR TREK EVENTS

B.I. CON 1 The First Barrie Ingham Convention. 8-9 February, 1992. Mountbatten Hotel, Covent Garden, London. This mini-convention will begin on Saturday with a visit to see Barrie in Aspects of Love at the Prince of Wales Theatre in London. On Sunday morning Barrie will join us for a question and answer session and on Sunday night Barrie will give a special performance of his one man show Love, Love, Love. Registration £17.50, tickets for Aspects of Love £22.50, Hotel Room: £30 pppn in twin or double, £45 pppn in single. SAE for info to: B.I.Con 1, c/o Clarke's, 5 Walker Terrace, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE8 1EB.

WHO'S SEVEN: Blakes 7/Dr Who Convention to be held on 30 Oct - 1 Nov 1992 at the Telford Mead House Hotel, Shropshire, England. For more information send a SSASE (SAE & IRC for overseas) to Henry Eggleton, "Valhalla", 137 High Street, Plaistow, Broadway, London E13 9HH.

ARMADACON 4 SF & Fantasy Convention. 7-8 November, 1992 at the Astor Hotel, Plymouth. Guests to include (work permitting) Jon Pertwee, Jacqueline Pearce, John Kerrigan, Adnan Cole and Fantasy Illustrators Roger and Linda Garland. Events to include: Guest Panels, Authors' Readings, signings, Turkey Reading, Displays, Dealers' Room, two video rooms. Registration Rates: until May '92 £18, one day £10, from June 1st £20, one day £12. Special rates for students and unemployed upon request. For more details write to: ArmadaCon, c/o 4 Gleneagle Avenue, Mannamead, Plymouth, Devon PL3 5HL. Please enclose an SASE.

FRIENDSHIP COLUMN

Friendship adverts will be printed in one newsletter.

Anyone in the Dundee area wishing to go to the Away Team Mini Cons in Glasgow on 1st March, 12th April, 24th May, 21st June. Please phone Stephen Rothwell, (0382) 451746 for more details.

Hi. I am looking for a pen-pal, male/female, any age, creed or colour! I love Classic Trek, Kirk/Shatner. I also love going to the movies, reading, animals and lots more. Please write to Sharon Lamb, 13 Sheridan Green, Rickleton, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE38 9DY.

I would like to correspond with anyone from Sol III or beyond. My hobbies include Star Trek in all forms, Red Dwarf, Quantum Leap, Hitch-hikers', Twin Peaks, Clangers, and reading science fiction. I do lots of creative things like my own intarsai knitting designs. I'm a Beaver Scout Leader (nobody's perfect). I tend to write long letters making up for my restraint to the IDIC postbag. Please write to Mrs Christine Snow, 32 Orchard Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7PY, U.K.

I am a great science fiction fan and I would like to find friends among SF fans in the USA, Canada and around Europe to discuss all aspects of the genre. You may not know about Russian SF and SF movies. Please write to Mr. D. Pozharsky, 115551 Moscow, Kashirskoe St. 94-3-346, Russia, USSR.

Are there any Quantum Leap fans out there? Does anyone know of any Quantum Leap fan clubs in England? Samantha J. Tuley, 11 Heys Close, Blackburn, Lancashire BB2 4PF.

A 42 years young TNG and Data fan would like to correspond with others. Carol Bissett, 19 Belfry Avenue, St. George, Bristol, BS5 7PL.

Would anyone like to write to a lonesome Scottish lass living in the Lake District. Or has anyone any info about any local group. I'm madly into Star Trek and can't find anyone I can talk to about it. Write to Sharon Rigby, c/o Sawrey Hotel, Far Sawrey, Near Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 0LQ.

SMALL ADS

Please note: All adverts are printed as a service to members and IDIC cannot accept any liability. Adverts will be printed in one newsletter only.

Please remember it is illegal to offer videos for sale, except for official copies - although there is no law against asking. It is also in breach of copyright to advertise photocopies of zines, and unfair to request them, without the permission of the editor. Adverts will therefore be edited if necessary.

FOR SALE: ONE COPY ONLY of Ladyhawke Magazine No. 9 - as new - £3.50. Please contact Marise Morland-Chapman, 12 Marsh Court, London Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 1EW.

FOR SALE: Collection of 150+ Star Trek photos - original series, varied shots, majority of Kirk. Wish to sell complete set in one transaction: £30. Mrs Christine Maybank, 53 Reigate Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 5JJ.

FOR SALE: Signed photo of William Shatner. Size is about 5" by 4" but good photo and clear signature. Offers please to Russell Witheyman, 12 Whistler Close, Tilgate, Crawley, W. Sussex.

WANTED: Does anyone have access to the radio broadcasts of 'The Lord of the Rings?' I understand there were 20 or so half-hour broadcasts and hope that there are some Tolkien-ophiles who managed to record them. Please contact me and I'll reimburse you for your stamps. I'd like to arrange sending you tapes and providing a modest stipend for reproducing them for me. All postage and handling will be paid by me, of course. Please help! Marcia Pecor, 730 Donaghe Street, Staunton, Virginia 24401, U.S.A.

WANTED: K/S Zine ICEFIRE (Not Fire and Ice) and THOSE WHO BELIEVE. Will pay any reasonable price for these zines. Please contact Jenny Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX.

WANTED: If possible, can anyone please lend me any of the fourth or fifth season ST:TNG episodes, especially The Best of Both Worlds Pts 1 and 2, Future Imperfect, Clues, Redemption Pts 1 and 2. Please contact Chris Roberts, 132 Sedgley Road West, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 8AA

WANTED: Back Issues of Star Trek The Official Fan Club Magazines 1 -58. Please send to Mr. M. Payne, 5 Bassett Road, Coundon, Coventry CV6 1LE.

WANTED: British VHS video recording of the following conventions. 1) The Congress Hotel, Chicago, October 26-27, 2) The Convention Centre, Valley Forge, November 23-29. Especially of Brent Spiner. Will pay reasonable price. Please contact Marie Chettle, 21 Quorne Road, Rushden, Northants, NN10 9UU.

WANTED: Does anyone know where I can get hold of some TNG episodes from the 4th and 5th season? Benjamin R.G. Cockrell, 278 Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7AG.

MERCHANDISE

David Robertson, Trekcollectibles, 1803 Northbridge, Cape Girardau, MO 63701, USA (Tel 0101 314 3341873) sells books, secondhand and new, at reasonable prices. He goes round all the American cons and buys books for resale.

A new shop has opened in Dundee, Games Warehouse. West Port (across from the Globe Bar) is stocking Star Trek novels, comics, models, role playing items and other Star Trek merchandise. Worth a visit.

STAR TREK FAN AND ACTOR CLUBS UPDATE

Send Janet a 9" x 6" SAE plus an extra loose 18p stamp for a list of ST clubs and groups, and ST related actor clubs in the UK and abroad.
(Note: new members receive a copy of this when they join IDIC, although we update it with the following info from each newsletter.)

Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

GENESIS II Star Trek Club: Travel to the Frontiers of Fun with Genesis II, going boldly into a new look. Three newsletter per year, outings, meetings and even conventions (T'KON), Membership rate £4.00 per year. Full details available from Leigh Griffiths, 65 Linsworth Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham B30 3RN.

ATTENTION KLINGONS The Klingon Assault Group has come to Scotland. Any Scots out there who hear the cry of the warrior, who are willing to die for the honour of the empire (or perhaps just themselves a little) write to: Kolorth, 2 Isles Terrace, Newmilns, Ayrshire, Scotland KA16 9JZ.

NEXT GEN: Do you enjoy Star Trek: The Next Generation? Want to share your enthusiasm? NEXT GEN is a new ACT based fanclub full of news, ideas, friendship and fun! Interested? Then write to: The Secretary, Next Gen, P.O. Box 463, Civic Square, A.C.T. 2608, Australia. (PS We're non-profit too!)

OTHER MEDIA CLUBS

THE BRITISH ALIENS FAN CLUB was set up to act as a forum for the vast number of people across the country who appreciate the brilliant "Aliens" films. Yearly membership will entitle you to 4 club newsletters, membership card, and a publicity still from one of the films. You will also be eligible for several free competitions, to win models, books, photo sets and videos. Send a cheque/po for £5.00 (made payable to S. Clarke) to The British Aliens Fan Club, 15 Herring Road, Liskeard, Cornwall PL14 3SY.

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

Anyone wishing to start a local group in the Bathgate area please contact me. I'd like to hear from you. Katrina Heintz, 23 Birniehill Ave, Bathgate, West Lothian EH48 2RR.

Is anyone interested in attending a one-day mini-Con in South Wales? I am thinking of trying to organise something very simple for Summer 1992 in Cardiff or Newport. If you would be interested, please let me know. Jacqueline Y Comben, Post Cottage, Rhossili, Gower, Swansea SA3 1PL.

Are there any Star Trek fans interested in starting a club in Dundee? Please get in touch with Stephen Rothwell, 20 Baxter Park Terrace, Dundee, DD4 6NP for more details.

HULL STARFLEET Video programme, social outings, competitions. Meeting dates (Sundays 12.00 noon - 4.30 pm) 2nd February 1992 at 286 Dorothy House, Beverley Road, Hull (near 'Gas Flare'). Admission £1. For more information send an SAE to Tracy Beadle, 7 Lynwood Grove, Goddard Avenue, Hull HU5 2BE.

FARPOINT needs you! If you live in the Isle of Wight area then this new local group needs you. We are also looking for story zine writers who would like to have their stories printed. Adult considered but no K/S. The zines planned so far are: Farpoint Classic Encounters, Encounters the Next Generation and to come in the far future, Strange Encounters for cross-overs and stories that would not fit into either universe. We are even considering non-Star Trek original material. So keep on dreaming up those plots. Write those stories. Philippa Timms, Silver Glade, 9 Grangeside, Shore Road, Bonchurch, Isle of Wight PO38, 1RW.

THE LONDON STAR TREK GROUP: bi-monthly, Saturday, 11.00 am - 7.00 pm. For everyone in or within travelling distance of London. Latest videos, games, discussions. Please send SAE for further information to Kim Farey, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

LEEDS STARFLEET: SAE to Leeds Starfleet, Leeds LS6 4TE. Meetings (incl. video programme) are held between 12 and 5pm on the following Sundays at the Headingley Community Centre, North Lane, Leeds: February 9th, March 8th, April 12th, May 10th, June 14th, July 12th, August 9th.

THE AWAY TEAM: Glasgow Star Trek Local Group. Meetings every 6 weeks approx. at the Central Hotel, Glasgow, 10.00am - 10.00pm. Come along and watch the latest videos - you will also get the chance to chat with other fans and to buy merchandise. Entry £5.00. Forthcoming dates: Sundays 1st March, 12th April, 24th May & 21st June. SAE for info to Catherine Melrose, 127 Medwyn Street, Glasgow G14 9QJ

THE BRIDGE CREW: - formerly The Landing Party. A local group based in the south east of Scotland. Fortnightly meetings at the Ailsa Craig Hotel. The group can be contacted at: Wester Auchinricoch Farm, Banton, Near Kilsyth G65 0QZ. Please enclose an SAE.

PRIME DIRECTIVE meets twice monthly at a city centre venue. Activities include days out, video evenings etc. Newcomers always welcome. Write to Michael Butcher, 501 Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham NG8 3LF, for further info, enclosing an SAE.

OPEN HOUSE First weekend of every month but please phone first to check (081 985 0426). Zines for sale, tapes to watch, other fans to chat to. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Hackney E9.

STAR TREK: THE NEW GATHERING (U.S.S. Discovery). Local meetings held in the Community Room St Helens Library monthly. Write for details to Sharon Rowe, 93 Juddfield Street, Haydock, St Helens, Merseyside WA11 0BD.

The deadline for submissions (articles, reviews, ads, etc) for the next newsletter is March 5th (March 1st for things sent to Sheila).

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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Send to:-

Janet - Subscriptions/Renewals; Cuttings and information; typed articles, reviews, letters etc; used stamps for The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Sheila - All zine orders; hand written letters, articles and reviews; submissions of TNG stories, poetry & artwork for zines; used stamps.

Valerie - Submissions of Classic Trek stories, poetry & artwork for zines; used stamps.

Helen - Submissions of crosswords, quizzes etc.

Committee Addresses:

Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Daili, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SX, Scotland

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Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats, Ayrshire KA21 5EW, Scotland

Helen White, 34 Fletcher Gardens, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks RG12 1FJ

Dues UK £6.50, USA/Middle East Air \$23.00 (£12.25), Australia £13.50, Europe £8.50.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

This is a statutory notice as prescribed by the above Act. In accordance with the conditions governing the maintenance of machine-readable records by non-incorporated members' clubs, IDIC must advise that the names and addresses of every member are held in a computer-readable format in order to more efficiently prepare and despatch newsletters. The information is used for this purpose only, and will not be disclosed to any other party whatsoever without the specific consent of the Data Subject (i.e. the member concerned). You should also be aware that you have a statutory right for your name to be deleted from the computer record and for your newsletters to be addressed manually.

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